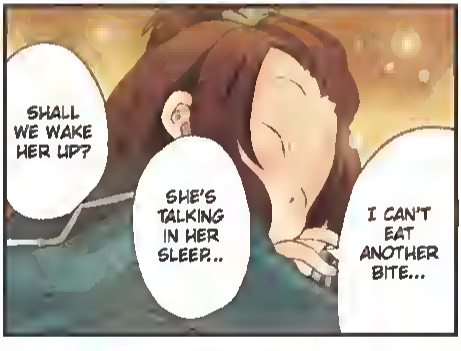
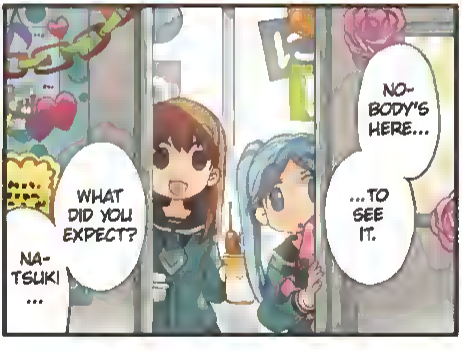
GA Geijutsuka Art Design Class
7
SATOKO KIYUDUKI

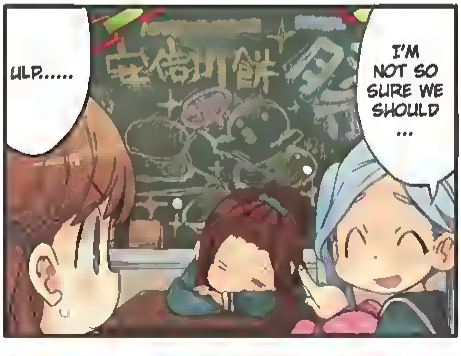
Gekkan Shojo Nozaki-kun
Gekkan Shojo Nozaki-kun
Gekkan Shojo Nozaki-kun

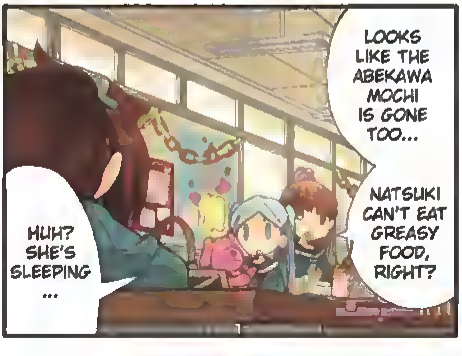
LET'S DRAW AND PLAY!
WOOF MEOW KABUM
"...and play!!"
"Let's draw..."
That's just the way it is, Suneko-san..
Where there's a beginning, there will eventually be an end.
Well, we haven't been really consistent about broadcasting this segment
Aaaaah! Then this is the final episode of our long-running show here!!
Apparently, yes. You're well-informed!
Ahh!
That this is the last volume of GA...
Oh! What did you hear, Suneko-san?
Onee-san... I heard a terrible rumor.
TREMBLE
And what'll happen with those two half-hearted girls in the Art Club?
Only club members are allowed in here!
You know?
Ah...
And what's Tomokane's big brother's name?
For example, what does Noda-chan's big sister's forehead look like?
Good point
Oh? Like what?
But if this is the last volume, it'll leave mysteries unsolved and loose ends untied...
That isn't the reason.
Yeah... we don't have enough sponsors and our ratings have been dropping ..
It's just a natural place to end it.
Wait a second!!
We're starting on the next page!!
Hee-hee!
And so, this is the new onee-san for the "second GA"!!
Eh?
Eh?
Huh? Huh?
Yup ...?
And then
...there's always a new begin-ning!!
Yup.
I'm sad... but after you meet some-one, the day you'll have to say good-bye will surely come.
Sniff
Finish

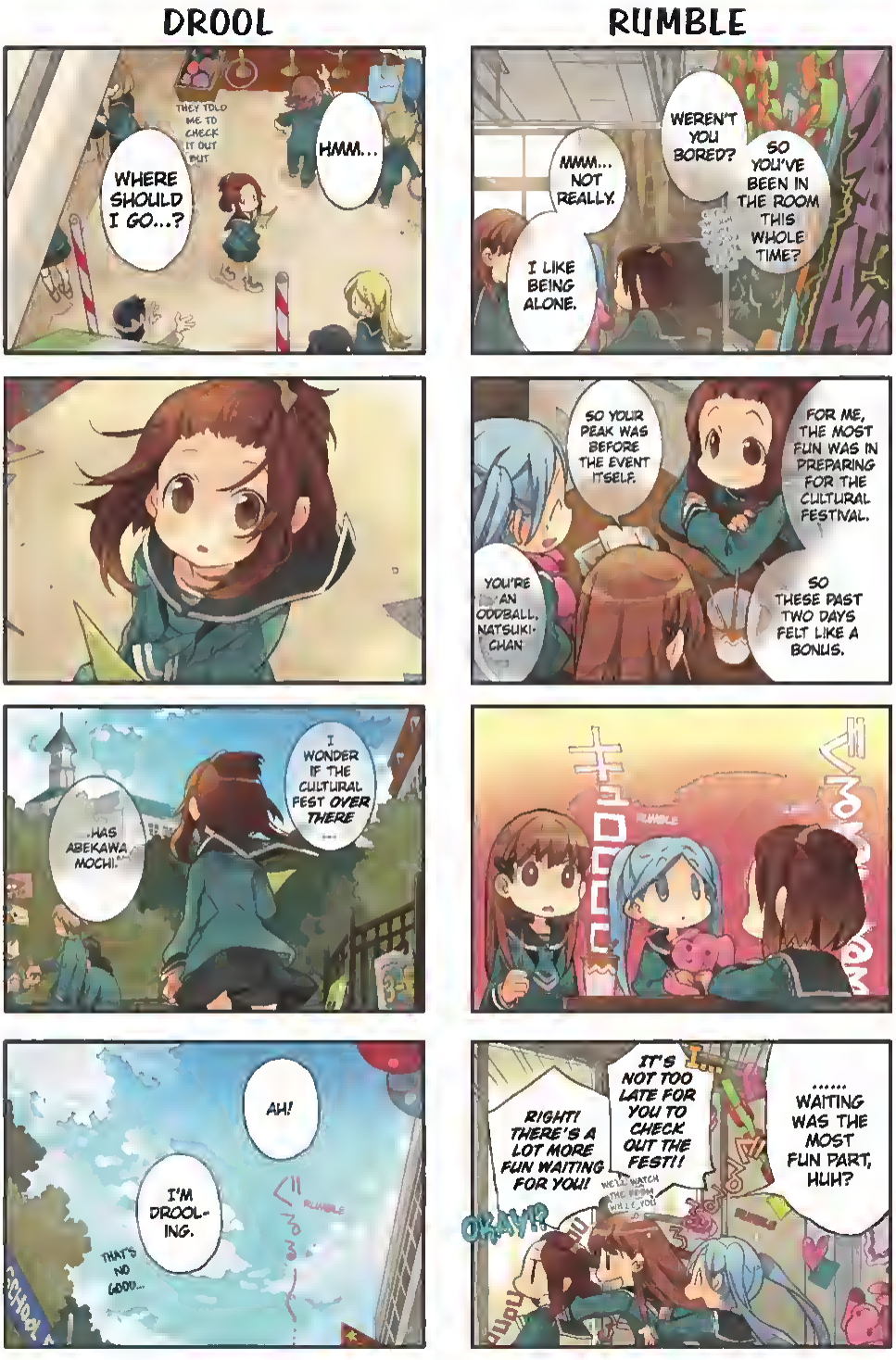
ANTICIPATION



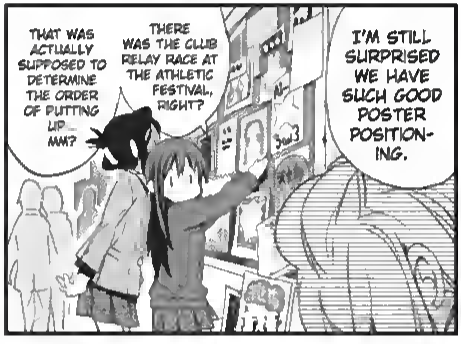







DROOL
RUMBLE
WHERE SHOULD I GO...?
THEY TOLD ME TO CHECK IT OUT BUT
HMM...
MMM... NOT REALLY.
I LIKE BEING ALONE.
WEREN'T YOU BORED?
SO YOU'VE BEEN IN THE ROOM THIS WHOLE TIME?
SO YOUR PEAK WAS BEFORE THE EVENT ITSELF.
YOU'RE AN ODDBALL, NATSUKI-CHAN
FOR ME, THE MOST FUN WAS IN PREPARING FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
SO THESE PAST TWO DAYS FELT LIKE A BONUS.
I WONDER IF THE CULTURAL FEST OVER THERE...
...HAS ABEKAWA MOCHI.
RUMBLE
AH!
I'M DROOL-ING.
THAT'S NO GOOD...
RIGHT! THERE'S A LOT MORE FUN WAITING FOR YOU!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TO CHECK OUT THE FEST!!
WE'LL WATCH THE FILM WITH YOU SO
OKAY!?
.....WAITING WAS THE MOST FUN PART, HUH?

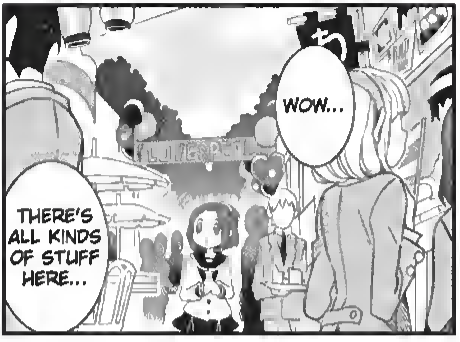
ESCALATING PANIC


THAT WAS ACTUALLY SUPPOSED TO DETERMINE THE ORDER OF PUTTING UP... MM?
THERE WAS THE CLUB RELAY RACE AT THE ATHLETIC FESTIVAL, RIGHT?
I'M STILL SURPRISED WE HAVE SUCH GOOD POSTER POSITION-ING.

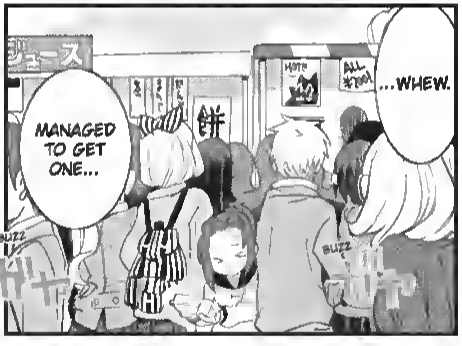
ARE YOU OKAY!? WANNA GO TO THE INFIRMARY!?
OH, BUT THEN YOU'D HAVE TO GO TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING!
...DIZZY...
TAP TAP
WH-WHAT'S WRONG? DO YOU FEEL SICK?

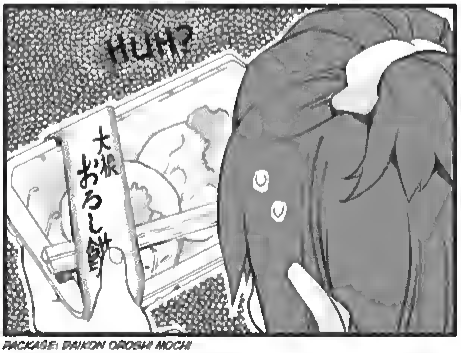
H-HUH? LIKE SHE'S STARVING? OFF TO THE CAFETERIA, THEN!?
OR MAYBE A FOOD STAND? WHAT KIND OF FOOD DOES SHE LIKE, SWEET OR SPICY!?
HUH!?
RRRR
D-DOESN'T IT KIND OF SOUND LIKE SOMETHING BEING GROUND DOWN ON A MILL-STONE?

MISSION FAILURE



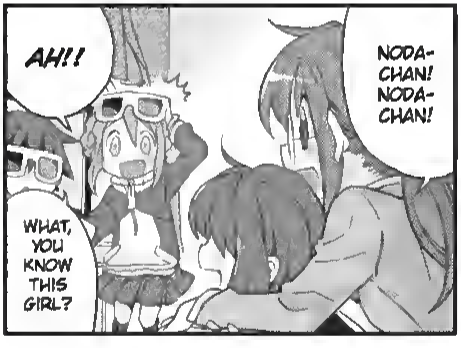
SIGNS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): JUICE, TEA, MANJU, DANGO, MOCHI

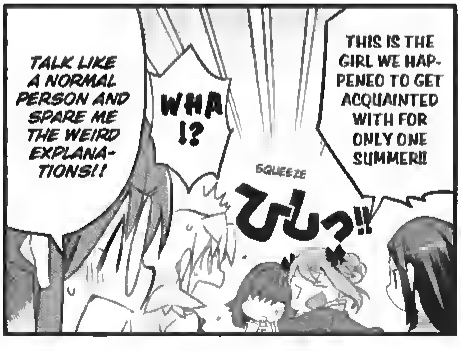




PACKAGE: DAIKON OROSHI MOCHI

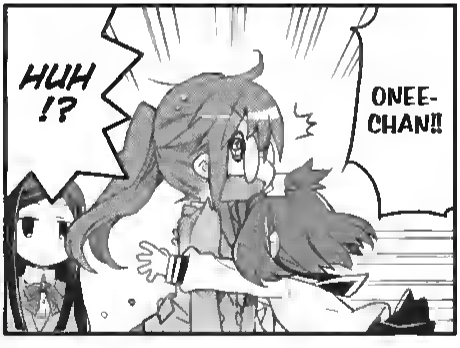
ONE TIME ONLY RELATIONSHIP




TALK LIKE A NORMAL PERSON AND SPARE ME THE WEIRD EXPLANATIONS!!
WHA!?
THIS IS THE GIRL WE HAPPENED TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH FOR ONLY ONE SUMMER!!
SQUEEZE
ぴし?!!

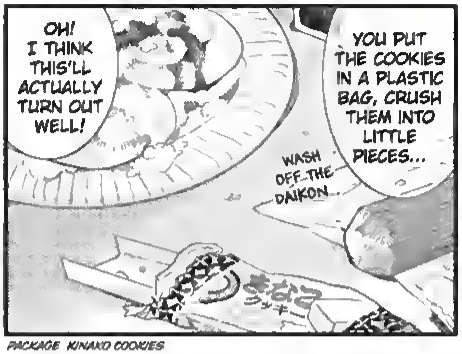
THE EASE WITH WHICH WATER-SOLUBLE SUBSTANCES WASH AWAY

SIGN: STAFF ONLY, NO ENTRANCE



DO I...!?
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?
HUH?
HAVE A LITTLE MORE FAITH IN YOUR FAMILY REGISTER.
KISARAGI, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A LITTLE SISTER.

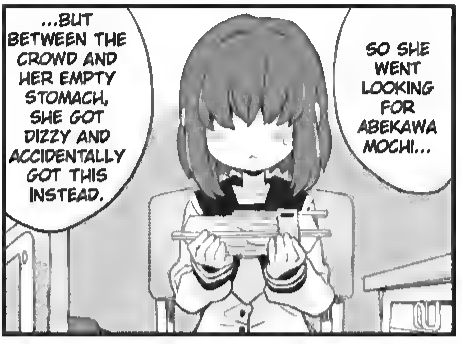
THE FLAVOR OF THINGS COBBLED TOGETHER

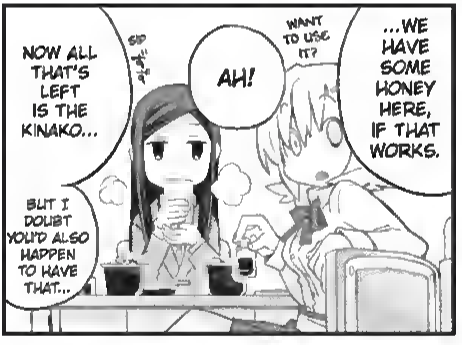

OH! I THINK THIS'LL ACTUALLY TURN OUT WELL!
YOU PUT THE COOKIES IN A PLASTIC BAG, CRUSH THEM INTO LITTLE PIECES...
WASH OFF THE DAIKON

PACKAGE KINAKO COOKIES

IT GOES TO SHOW YOU CAN DO ANYTHING IF YOU TRY.
YOU REALLY DID IT...
THAT'S BECAUSE WHEN YOU TRY TO MAKE SOMETHING, A STRANGE TENACITY GROWS FROM WITHIN.

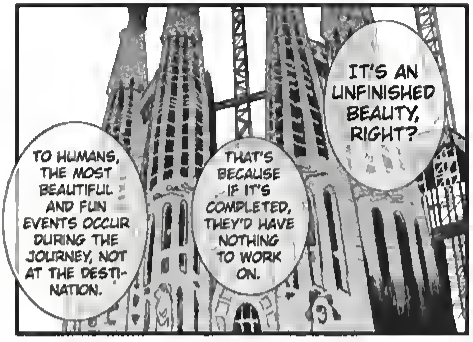
LOW-LEVEL QUEST


...BUT BETWEEN THE CROWD AND HER EMPTY STOMACH, SHE GOT DIZZY AND ACCIDENTALLY GOT THIS INSTEAD.
SO SHE WENT LOOKING FOR ABEKAWA MOCHI...


NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE KINAKO...
SIP
AH!
WANT TO USE IT?
...WE HAVE SOME HONEY HERE, IF THAT WORKS.
BUT I DOUBT YOU'D ALSO HAPPEN TO HAVE THAT...

THIS IS ABOUT THE SAME ENCOUNTER RATE MOMOTARO HAD WHEN HE WENT OFF TO FIGHT THE OGRES...
WE HAVE COOK-IES!?
WELL, IF COOKIES WILL DO...
THE PRINCE OF THE LAND OF SWEETS GAVE THEM TO ME

IN FACT, IT'S AN OMEN, ISN'T IT?


IT'S AN UNFINISHED BEAUTY, RIGHT?
THAT'S BECAUSE IF IT'S COMPLETED, THEY'D HAVE NOTHING TO WORK ON.
TO HUMANS, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND FUN EVENTS OCCUR DURING THE JOURNEY, NOT AT THE DESTINATION.

IS THAT LIKE WHEN I SEE ROUGH SKETCHES MORE THAN ANY OTHER DRAWING STAGE?
BUT YOU'VE DECIDED WHAT THE COMPLETED STATE WILL BE, RIGHT?
THAT MAKES ME BOTH HAPPY AND YET CONFLICTED.
YEAH, LIKE THAT.
THE PART YOU CAN'T SEE IS CAPTURED IN YOUR HEART.

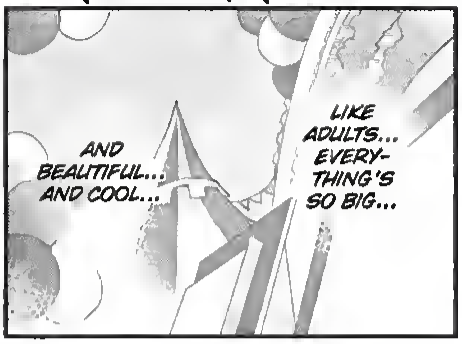
YOU MEAN LIKE HOW UNTIL THE LOTTERY RESULTS COME IN, YOU PLAN OUT HOW YOU'D SPEND THE MONEY?
COMPARED TO A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT
WELL, I SUPPOSE NOT ALL HEARTS CAN STAY PURE...

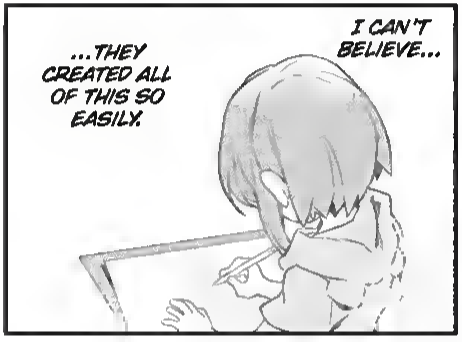
YOU'RE THE PUREST OF ALL.
IN A WAY
RIGHT?
THAT'S DIFFERENT FROM VALENTINE'S DAY, WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE, "THIS YEAR I'M GONNA GET CHOCOLATE FOR SURE," RIGHT?

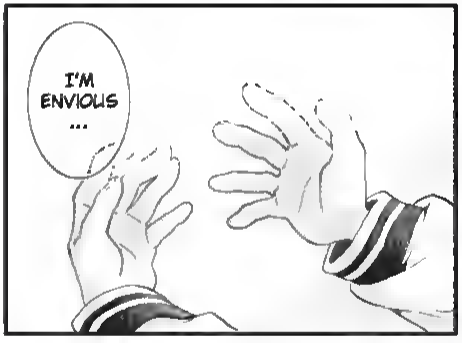
COMMUTING TO SCHOOL FROM SPAIN

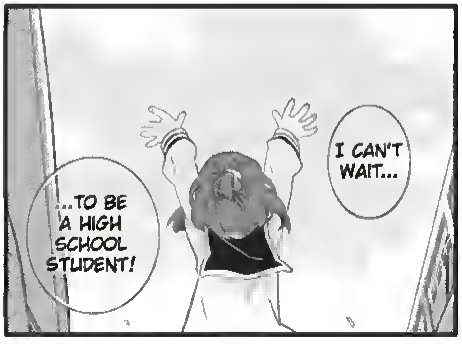
ARE YOU...
...TRYING TO SAY "SAGRADA FAMILIA"?
AH! THAT'S IT. THAT'S THE ONE.
AA SAN, YOU'RE IN FOR HARD TRAINING RIGHT AFTER THE FESTIVAL IS OVER.

QUICKLY, QUICKLY

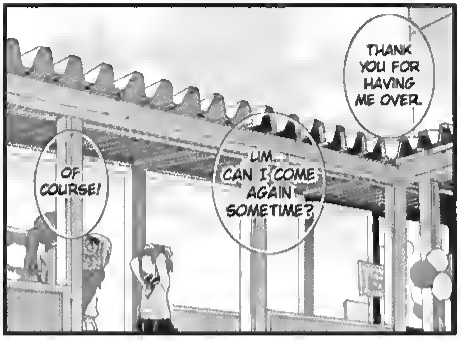


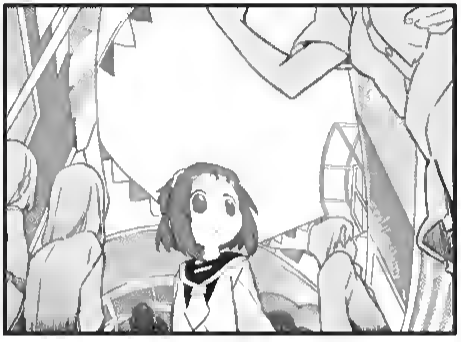




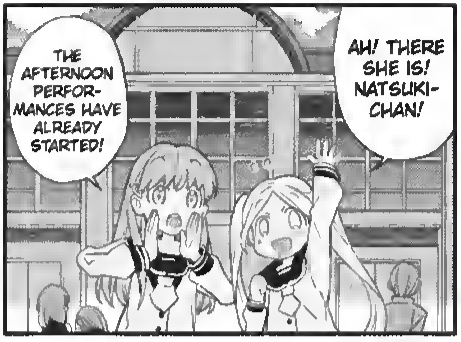


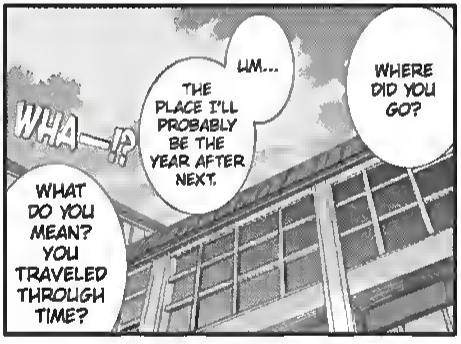
A DIFFERENT WORLD

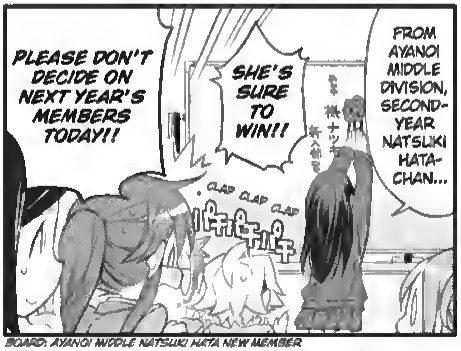




0% OF VOTES COUNTED



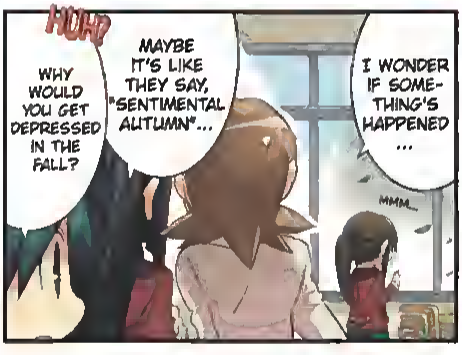



PLEASE DON'T DECIDE ON NEXT YEAR'S MEMBERS TODAY!!
SHE'S SURE TO WIN!!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
FROM AYANOI MIDDLE DIVISION, SECOND-YEAR NATSUKI HATA-CHAN...

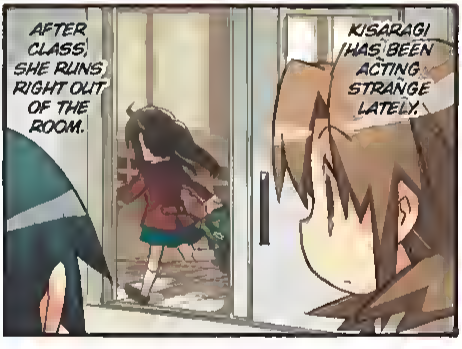
BOARD: AYANOI MIDDLE NATSUKI HATA NEW MEMBER

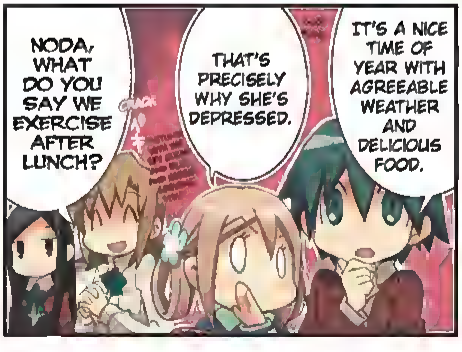
14 YEARS OLD

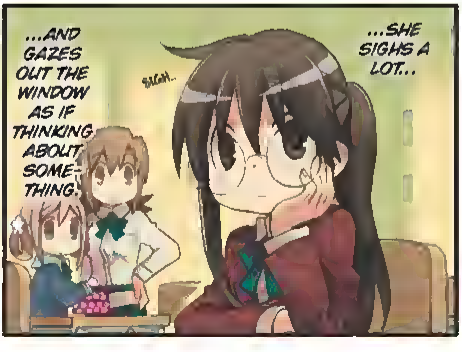
I KNOW! WHEN HER EYES LIT UP, I COULD TELL THAT SHE WAS THINKING ABOUT JOINING THE ART CLUB EVENTUALLY.
PERMISSION TO DESTROY GRANTED!
WHAT WAS HER NAME AGAIN, NATSUKI-CHAN? SHE WAS SO CUTE.


HUH?
WHY WOULD YOU GET DEPRESSED IN THE FALL?
MAYBE IT'S LIKE THEY SAY, "SENTIMENTAL AUTUMN"...
I WONDER IF SOMETHING'S HAPPENED...
MMM...

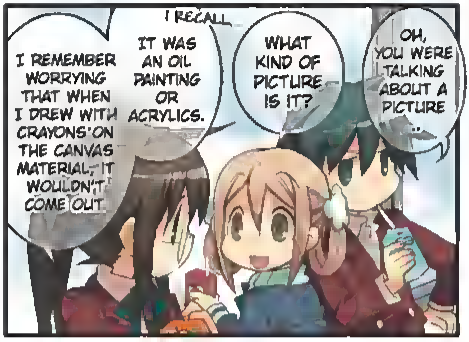
WANNA BATTLE AND WORK UP A SWEAT?

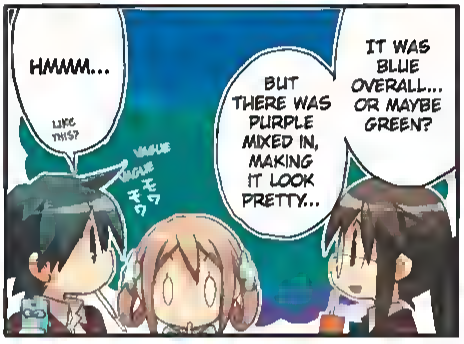


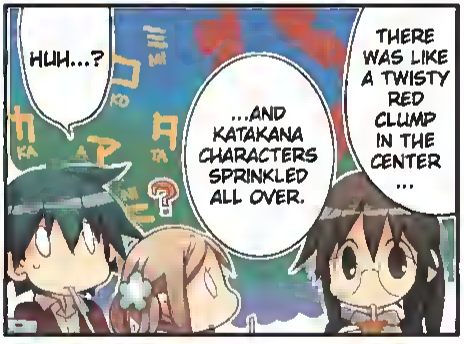

NODA, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE EXERCISE AFTER LUNCH?
THAT'S PRECISELY WHY SHE'S DEPRESSED.
IT'S A NICE TIME OF YEAR WITH AGREEABLE WEATHER AND DELICIOUS FOOD.

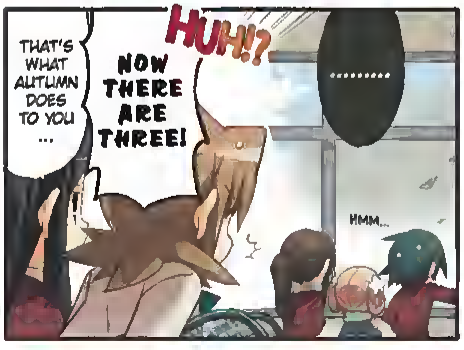


DIFFICULT QUIZ

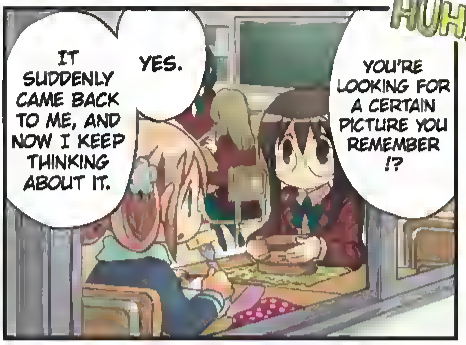

I RECALL...
I REMEMBER WORRYING THAT WHEN I DREW WITH CRAYONS ON THE CANVAS MATERIAL, IT WOULDN'T COME OUT.
IT WAS AN OIL PAINTING OR ACRYLICS.
WHAT KIND OF PICTURE IS IT?
OH, YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT A PICTURE...

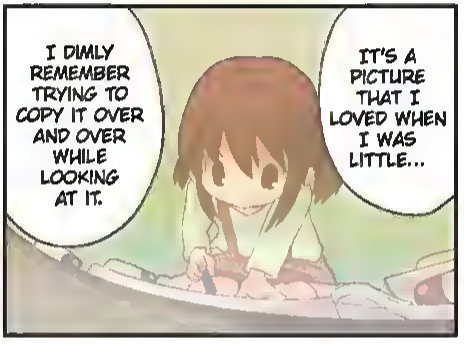


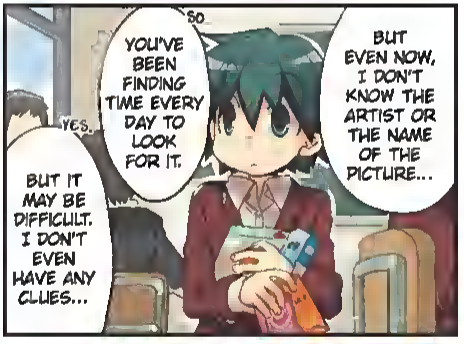


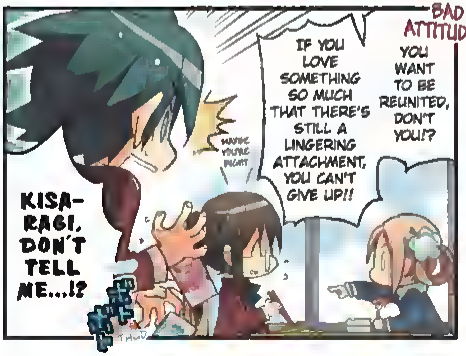


A CHAT IN COLOR

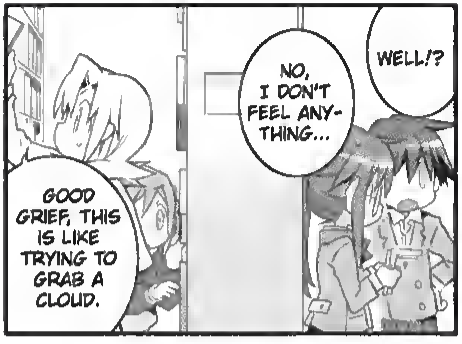





BUT EVEN NOW, I DON'T KNOW THE ARTIST OR THE NAME OF THE PICTURE...
SO
YOU'VE BEEN FINDING TIME EVERY DAY TO LOOK FOR IT.
YES.
BUT IT MAY BE DIFFICULT. I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY CLUES...


BAD ATTITUDE!!
YOU WANT TO BE REUNITED, DON'T YOU!?
IF YOU LOVE SOMETHING SO MUCH THAT THERE'S STILL A LINGERING ATTACHMENT, YOU CAN'T GIVE UP!!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT
KISA-RAGI, DON'T TELL ME...!?

SCRATCHING BELOW THE SURFACE



...BUT THE MORE I NARROW MY SIGHTS IN MY BRAIN, THE HAZIER IT BECOMES.
I KNOW I NEED TO REMEMBER MORE ABOUT IT...
OR ANY OTHER HINT?
MAYBE YOU CAN NARROW IT DOWN BY GENRE?

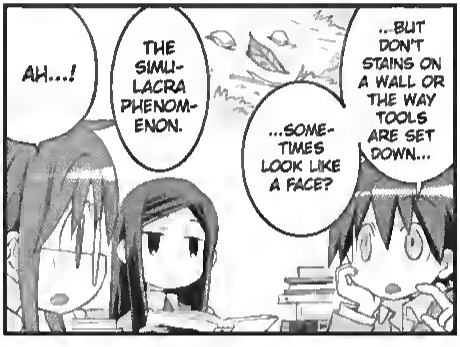
...BUT LOOKING AT THE PICTURE MADE ME WANT TO...
THIS IS SUBJECTIVE, SO I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL BE A CLUE...
HOW ABOUT AN IMPRESSION? LIKE, HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL?

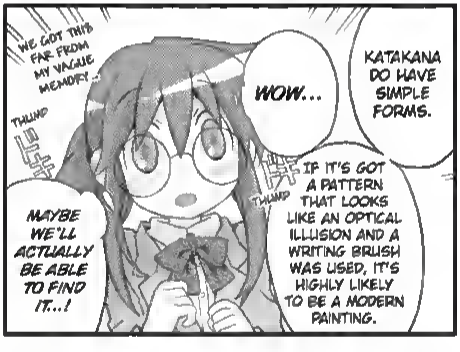
...DRAW IT. AND BY THE WAY, WE'RE GOING TO GET HOME LATE. ARE YOU ALL OKAY WITH THAT?
CRY?
SNORE?
SWEAT?
THE MORE I EXPLAIN, THE FURTHER WE GET.

DIG UP THE VEIN OF MEMORY

A BOOK?
...BUT I HAVE A FEELING I SAW IT WHILE READING A BOOK WITH SOMEONE.
THE PLACE, NOT AT ALL...
DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE AND WHEN YOU SAW IT?
HUH... A MEMORY OF A PICTURE...

FROM FAIR WINDS TO CALM WEATHER

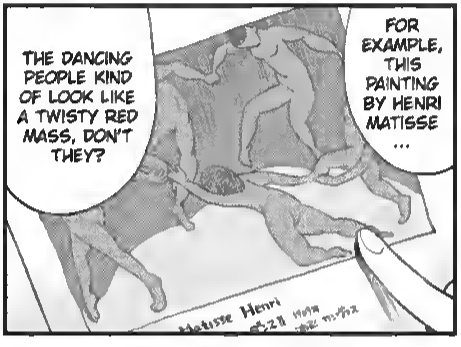



WE GOT THIS FAR FROM MY VAGUE MEMORY...
THUMP
WOW...
KATAKANA DO HAVE SIMPLE FORMS.
THUMP
IF IT'S GOT A PATTERN THAT LOOKS LIKE AN OPTICAL ILLUSION AND A WRITING BRUSH WAS USED, IT'S HIGHLY LIKELY TO BE A MODERN PAINTING.
MAYBE WE'LL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO FIND IT...!

TWISTED GIRLS GATHERING

MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T TAKE WHAT SHE SAID LITERALLY.
MMM... I'M NOT SO SURE.
IF THERE WAS KATAKANA IN THE PICTURE, THEN IT'S JAPANESE, RIGHT?

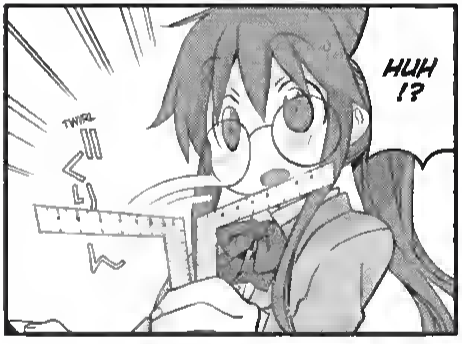
BOOM: WESTERN

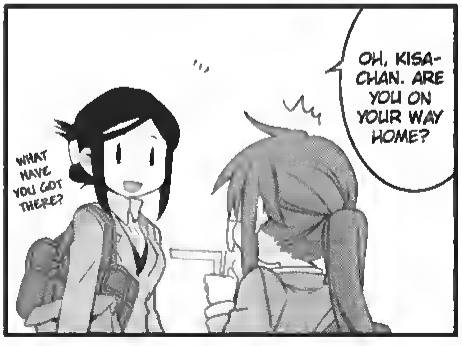


STILL, IT DOES FIT WITH THE WAY SHE THINKS, DOESN'T IT?
...BUT DOES KISARAGI KNOW MATISSE?
TRUE, IF YOU LOOK AT THE NUDE PAINTING WITH RED-SKINNED PEOPLE FROM A DISTANCE, IT CAN LOOK LIKE A RED MASS..

YOUR WAY OF PRAISING ME IS TWISTED TOO!
PEOPLE WITH TWISTED THOUGHTS AND HAIRSTYLES REALLY ARE DIFFERENT!
YOU'RE RIGHT. I THINK NODA'S TWISTED POINT OF VIEW IS GETTING US CLOSER!
YAY!
YAY!

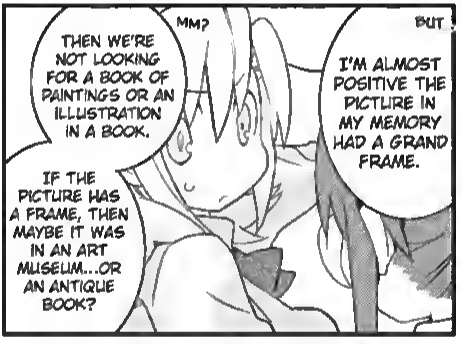
DISCOVERING THE VEIN

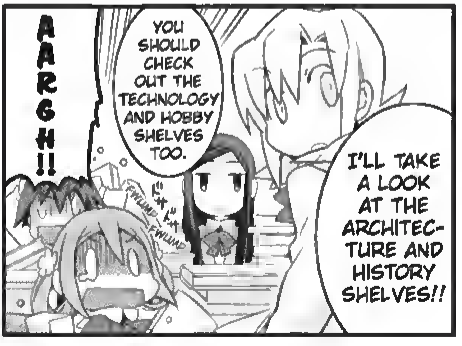




GIVE UP

NO, A DOUBT JUST CROSSED MY MIND...
WHAT IS IT, KISARAGI? YOU HAVE A STRANGE LOOK ON YOUR FACE.
BOOKS OF PAINTINGS DON'T SHOW THE PICTURE FRAME, RIGHT?
USUALLY...


MM?
BUT
THEN WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A BOOK OF PAINTINGS OR AN ILLUSTRATION IN A BOOK.
I'M ALMOST POSITIVE THE PICTURE IN MY MEMORY HAD A GRAND FRAME.
IF THE PICTURE HAS A FRAME, THEN MAYBE IT WAS IN AN ART MUSEUM...OR AN ANTIQUE BOOK?


AARGH!!
YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT THE TECHNOLOGY AND HOBBY SHELVES TOO.
FWUMP
FWUMP
I'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THE ARCHITEC-TURE AND HISTORY SHELVES!!

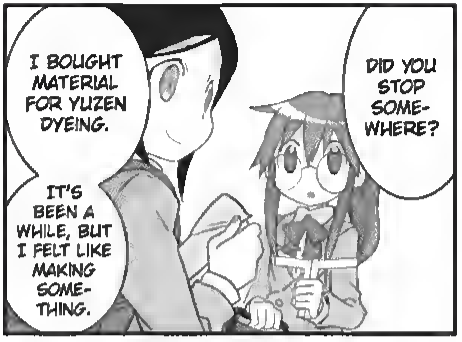
SEASON OF SINFULNESS

POSTER: CULTURE DAY CONCERT

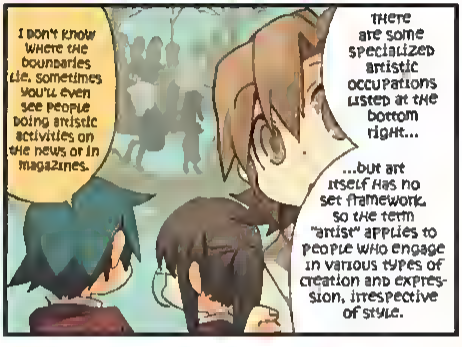
A LONG-STANDING MYSTERY HAD BEEN CLEARED UP...
YES...
BUT NOW THAT WE KNOW, IT'S LIKE A WEIGHT OFF MY CHEST.
WELL, NO WONDER WE COULDN'T FIND IT.

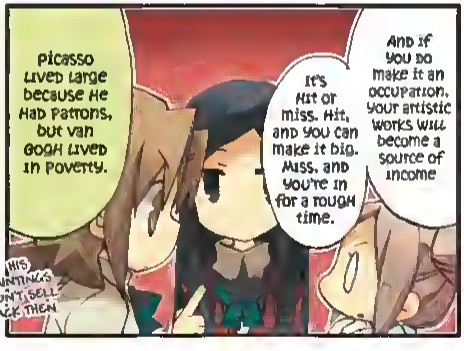
...SHE FELT SINCERE REMORSE.
NAH, THAT'S "DO."
THAT FLOCK OF BIRDS OVER THERE LOOKS LIKE "SHI" TO ME.
...BUT FOR A WHILE, WHEN KISARAGI LOOKED AT HER FRIENDS, STILL SUFFERING FROM AFTER-EFFECTS..

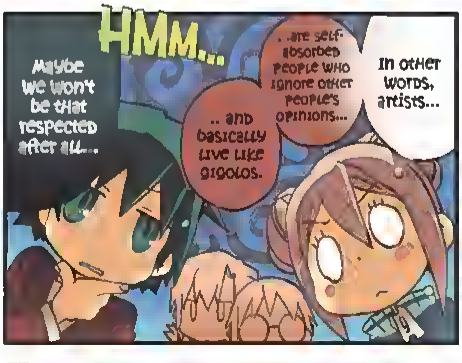
ONCE MORE, THE MEMORY FADES



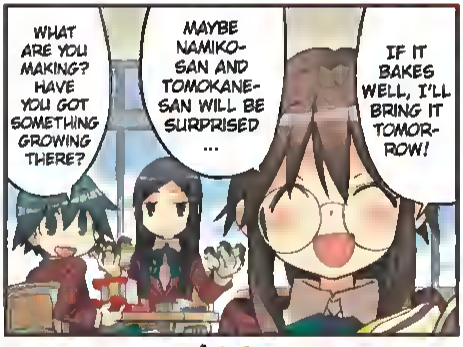
Talk about ideal!!
We'll make money doing what we love and be respected for it!!
We've arrived at our final destination, the bull's-eye of our goal as aspiring artists!!
That's what being an artist is all about!!
NOT HOLDING ANYTHING BACK, HUH?


I don't know where the boundaries lie. Sometimes you'll even see people doing artistic activities on the news or in magazines.
There are some specialized artistic occupations listed at the bottom right...
...but art itself has no set framework. So the term "artist" applies to people who engage in various types of creation and expression, irrespective of style.


Picasso lived large because he had patrons, but van Gogh lived in poverty.
It's hit or miss. Hit, and you can make it big. Miss, and you're in for a rough time.
And if you do make it an occupation, your artistic works will become a source of income
HIS PAINTINGS DIDN'T SELL BACK THEN

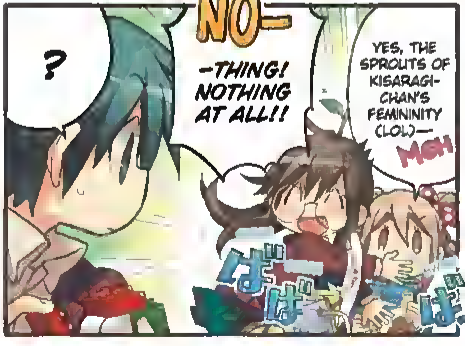

HMM...
Maybe we won't be that respected after all...
.. and basically live like gigolos.
..are self-absorbed people who ignore other people's opinions...
In other words, artists...

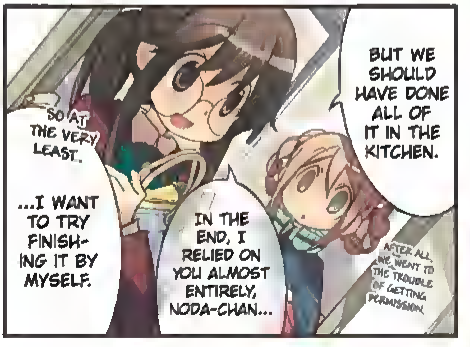
ARTIST
A PERSON WHO PRACTICES ANY OF THE VARIOUS CREATIVE ARTS, SUCH AS A POET OR MUSICIAN.
CREATES WORKS, OFTEN IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXPRESS AND COMMUNICATE THEIR INDIVIDUAL BELIEFS OR INTENTIONS.
RELATED OCCUPATIONS
• PAINTER • SCULPTOR • WOODBLOCK ARTIST •
• CALLIGRAPHER • PHOTOGRAPHER •
• AND OTHER TYPES OF ARTISTS •


WHAT ARE YOU MAKING? HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING GROWING THERE?
MAYBE NAMIKO-SAN AND TOMOKANE-SAN WILL BE SURPRISED ...
IF IT BAKES WELL, I'LL BRING IT TOMOR-ROW!

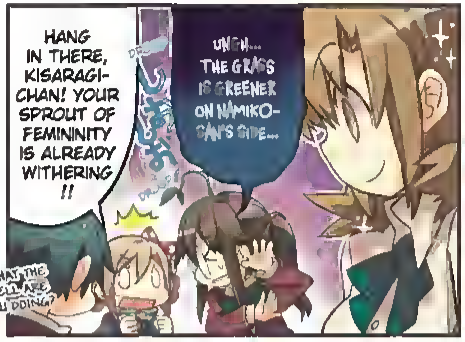
POTTED PLANT CULTIVATION

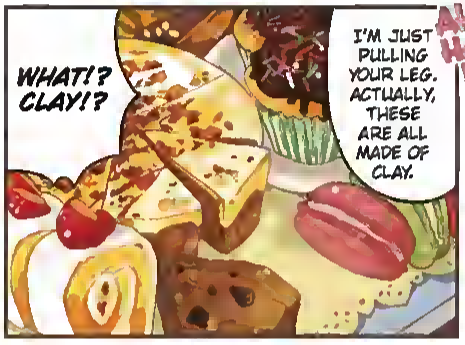
I SEE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
NOW SHAPE THE DOUGH INTO ANY FORM YOU LIKE, AND WE'LL PUT IT IN THE OVEN
IT SHOULD LAST A GOOD WHILE IF YOU KEEP IT IN COLD STORAGE
RATTLE



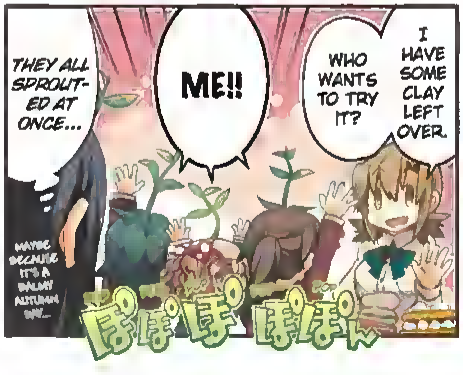

BUT WE SHOULD HAVE DONE ALL OF IT IN THE KITCHEN.
AFTER ALL, WE DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE THE TROUBLE OF GETTING PERMISSION.
IN THE END, I RELIED ON YOU ALMOST ENTIRELY, NODA-CHAN...
SO AT THE VERY LEAST,
...I WANT TO TRY FINISH-ING IT BY MYSELF.

SPROUTS OF ART

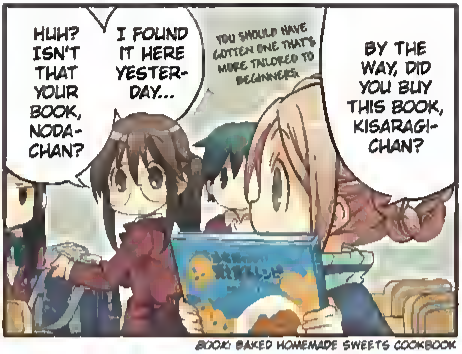

HANG IN THERE, KISARAGI-CHAN! YOUR SPROUT OF FEMININITY IS ALREADY WITHERING !!
UNGH... THE GRASS IS GREENER ON NAMIKO-CHAN'S SIDE...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?



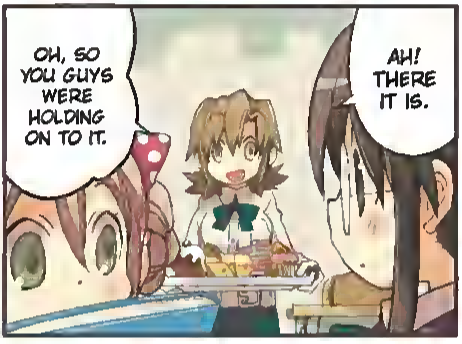
YOU CAN MAKE THINGS LIKE THIS USING CLAY? HOW?
THAT'S INTERESTING! AND THEY CAN BE USED FOR FRANKS TOO!
HUH—
COME TO THINK OF IT, SWEETS DECORATIONS AND FAKE FOOD HAVE BEEN PRETTY POPULAR LATELY.

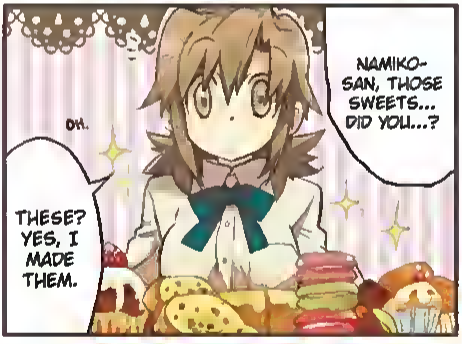


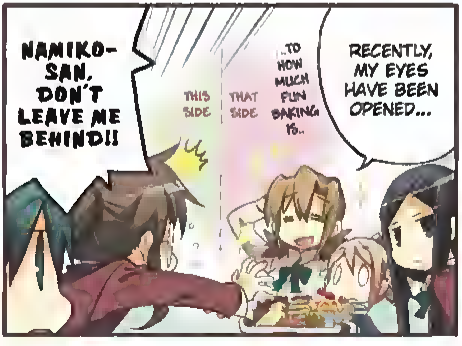
SEE YOU


HUH? ISN'T THAT YOUR BOOK, NODA-CHAN?
I FOUND IT HERE YESTERDAY...
YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN ONE THAT'S MORE TAILORED TO BEGINNERS.
BY THE WAY, DID YOU BUY THIS BOOK, KISARAGI-CHAN?

BOOK: BAKED HOMEMADE SWEETS COOKBOOK







THE FATE OF UNUSED CLAY

AH! THAT'S RIGHT! IT FELT JUST LIKE THIS BACK THEN! AND IT SMELLED JUST LIKE THIS!
SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE
PAPER CLAY! THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES. I HAVEN'T SEEN THIS STUFF SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

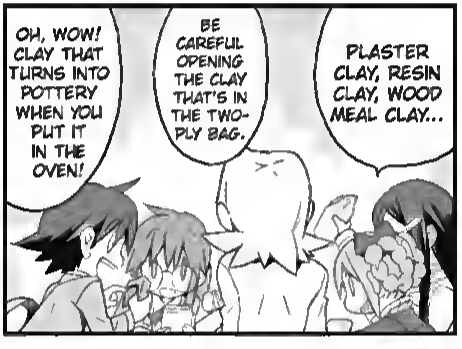
PACKAGE: HAVE FUN MAKING THINGS—PAPER CLAY

WHOA! THIS IS AS SOFT AS PUTTY RUBBER!
THERE ARE TWO KINDS?
RECENTLY, THERE'S NEW AND IMPROVED PAPER CLAY THAT'S LIGHTER AND EASIER TO HANDLE.
OKAY OKAY
ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES!
SLICKER

PACKAGE: LIGHT AND FLUFFY CLAY

CAN YOU...
...REALLY CALL THAT MAKING SOMETHING?
AH! ME TOO!
CRUNCH
BUT WHAT I MADE THE MOST WAS LIKE FREEZE-DRIED TOFU.
THAT'S WHAT IT WAS LIKE WHEN A PIECE I FORGOT IN THE BAG EVENTUALLY CAME OUT

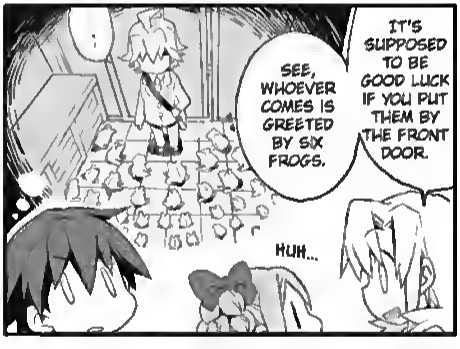
THE DEVILISH NAMIKO-SAN


OH, WOW! CLAY THAT TURNS INTO POTTERY WHEN YOU PUT IT IN THE OVEN!
BE CAREFUL OPENING THE CLAY THAT'S IN THE TWO-PLY BAG.
PLASTER CLAY, RESIN CLAY, WOOD MEAL CLAY...

SO YOU CAN ASK ME ANYTHING ABOUT THEM.
EACH KIND HAS DIFFERENT PROPERTIES, WHICH MADE ME WANT TO TRY MORE AND MORE.
DID YOU USE ALL OF THESE KINDS OF CLAY, NAMIKO-SAN?

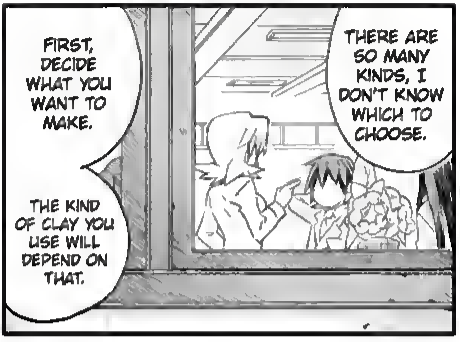
STOP TALKING LIKE AN EVIL TEMPTRESS!
YOU CAN TWIST IT AROUND YOUR LITTLE FINGER.
LITERALLY...
YOU CAN ROLL ALL THE DIFFERENT TYPES IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.
ROLL ROLL

SPRINGING UP SPECTACLE



SFX: SLITHER SLITHER SLITHER

HOPEFUL REPERTOIRE

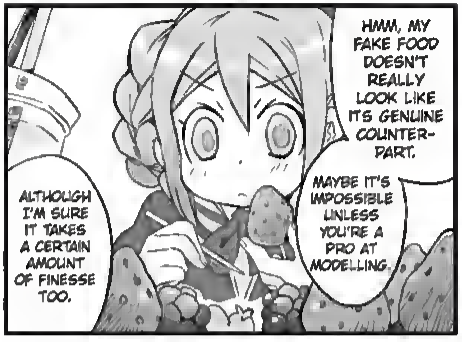

FIRST, DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO MAKE.
THERE ARE SO MANY KINDS, I DON'T KNOW WHICH TO CHOOSE.
THE KIND OF CLAY YOU USE WILL DEPEND ON THAT.

I THINK IT'LL GET ALL MIXED UP IF YOU TRY TO MAKE A DISH.
CAN I DO IT WITH THIS FLOUR CLAY?
OKAY, I WANNA MAKE NAPOLITAN TWIRLING AROUND A FORK!!
THAT CLAY IS SAFE FOR EVEN INFANTS TO USE, AND THAT'S ABOUT ALL IT'S GOOD FOR!

BUCKET FLOUR CLAY

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE BOASTING IF YOU CAN MAKE SOMETHING.
KISARAGI-SAN TOO...
MM?
IN THE END, I GUESS MY IDEAL FOOD IS SOMETHING YOU CAN MAKE EASILY WITH WHATEVER YOU HAVE IN THE FRIDGE.
SHE STILL HAS A SPROUT ON HER HEAD?

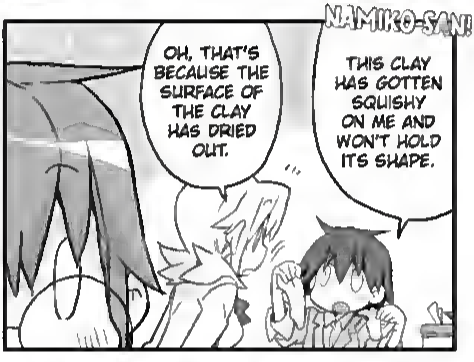
GOING TO THE COURTYARD


HMM, MY FAKE FOOD DOESN'T REALLY LOOK LIKE IT'S GENUINE COUNTERPART.
MAYBE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE UNLESS YOU'RE A PRO AT MODELLING.
ALTHOUGH I'M SURE IT TAKES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FINESSE TOO.

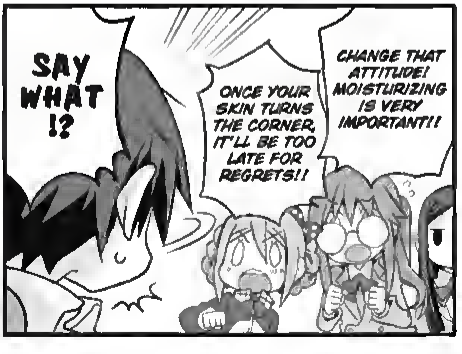
FOR PRO FAKE FOOD SAMPLES...
...THEY MAKE MOLDS FROM THE REAL THING...
...AND POUR SILICONE INTO THEM.
AH! REALLY!
SO IT'S NOT ALL HANDMADE...

BEAUTY PREPARATIONS

MM..
JUST LIKE PROFESSOR'S SKIN...
OOOOH
PAT
THIS HIGH-GRADE PLASTER CLAY HAS SUCH A FINE TEXTURE AND IS REALLY SMOOTH TO THE TOUCH.

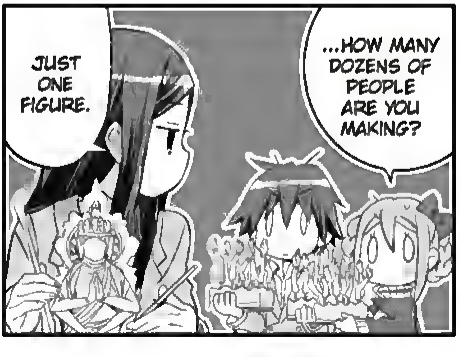

NAMIKO-SAN!
OH, THAT'S BECAUSE THE SURFACE OF THE CLAY HAS DRIED OUT.
THIS CLAY HAS GOTTEN SQUISHY ON ME AND WON'T HOLD ITS SHAPE.

WHA...? THAT'S KIND OF A PAIN IN THE ASS...
...CRACKS WILL FORM LATER.
IF YOU DON'T USE A DROPPER TO KEEP IT DAMP AND WRAP IT IN PLASTIC EVERY SO OFTEN...

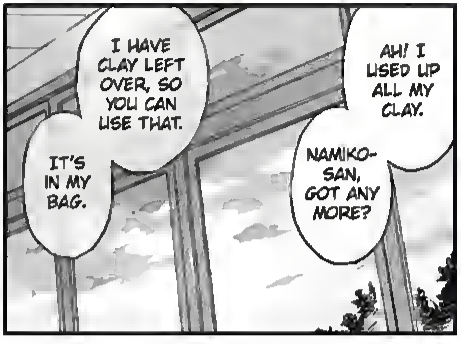

SAY WHAT !?
ONCE YOUR SKIN TURNS THE CORNER, IT'LL BE TOO LATE FOR REGRETS!!
CHANGE THAT ATTITUDE! MOISTURIZING IS VERY IMPORTANT!!

SHIBA & BEAGLE (BOTH MIXED BREEDS)

A THOUSAND ARMS

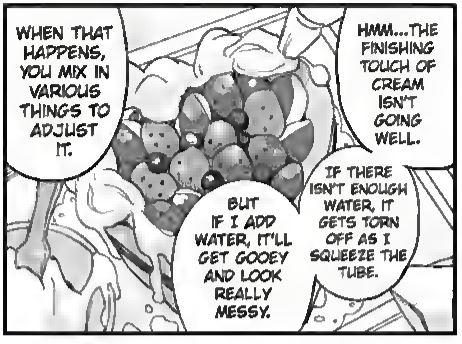


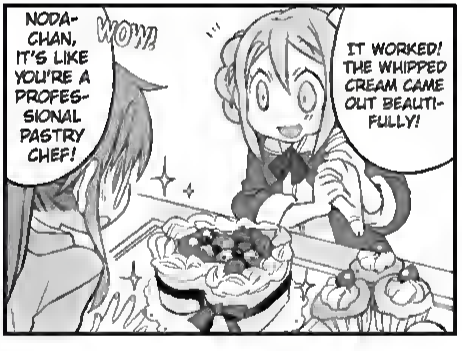
LOCAL COMMUTING TEAM VS SUBURBAN COMMUTING TEAM

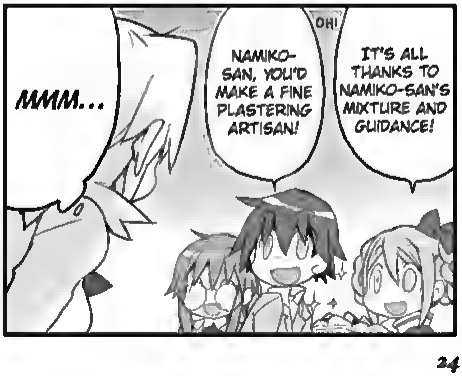


WHA...? WE HAVE TO FINISH ALREADY?
JUST LOOK AT THE TIME!
THE BUS IS GOING TO LEAVE SOON AND WE STILL NEED TIME TO CLEAN UP.
LET'S WRAP IT UP HERE FOR TODAY. YOU CAN CONTINUE AT HOME.
THANK YOU!

LACK OF FEMININITY

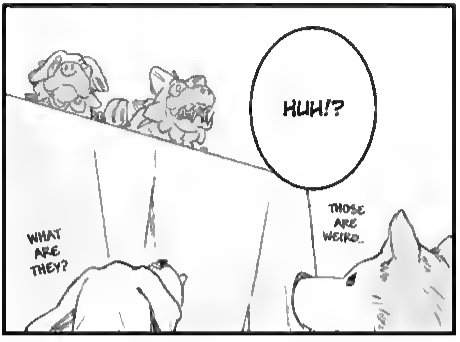

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, YOU MIX IN VARIOUS THINGS TO ADJUST IT.
HMM...THE FINISHING TOUCH OF CREAM ISN'T GOING WELL.
BUT IF I ADD WATER, IT'LL GET GOOEY AND LOOK REALLY MESSY.
IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH WATER, IT GETS TORN OFF AS I SQUEEZE THE TUBE.





PLAIN TASTE

A BLOB OF OCHER



PACKAGE: PLASTER CLAY FOR HANDICRAFTS, OVEN READY

SNIFF OUT
HUH?
OH, CRAP! OOPS ...
THIS IS WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO PUT THAT ON YOUR LAP!
AH—! SURE IS COLD OUT-SIDE...
DARN YOU SOTOMA-SENSEI!
RATTLE
YOU COULD'VE WAITED IN THE FACULTY ROOM FOR ME TO TURN IN THE AS-SIGNMENT.
SORRY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AH, YES! I'M FINE!
I'LL PICK THIS STUFF UP.
CLATTER
IT'S SHAKING! THE LADDER'S SHAKING!! I'M GONNA FALL!!
WHAT WAS YOUR DIS-COVERY!? WHAT'D YOU FIND!?
CLATTER
CLATTER
I WAS JUST ASTONISHED TO FIND SOMETHING SO AMAZING HERE! WHAT A DISCOVERY..
NEVER-MIND THAT
JUST HANDLE THAT WITH CARE SO YOU DON'T DROP IT.
TWITCH

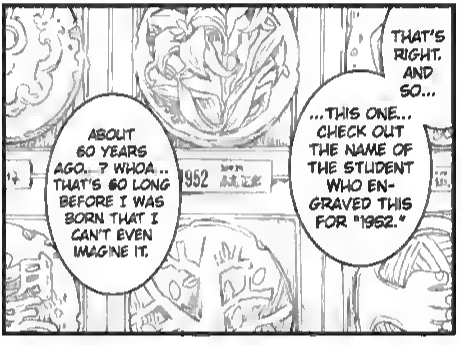
PROMISE OF TOFU

MMM... HE'S DEFINITELY FROM AROUND HERE...
AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE INTERNET
IS IT ONE OF THOSE CASES WHERE IT JUST HAPPENS TO BE ANOTHER PERSON WITH THE SAME NAME?

THE WORK OF A NATIONAL TREASURE.
CREAK
EVEN IF WE LOOKED AT HIS BACKGROUND, THOUGH, RECORDS WEREN'T KEPT VERY WELL THEN.
WELL...
I'LL HAVE TO COME BACK HERE AND TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
I'LL LOOK FOR THE REGISTER FROM BACK THEN AND TRY TO CONFIRM IT.

WILD STEPLADDER

UM..
FIRST, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
UHM... I BELIEVE IT'S THE RELIEF FOR THE GRADUATION ART PROJECT.
EACH YEAR, THE ENGRAVING OF ONE GRADUATING STUDENT IS PUT UP ON THE WALL.

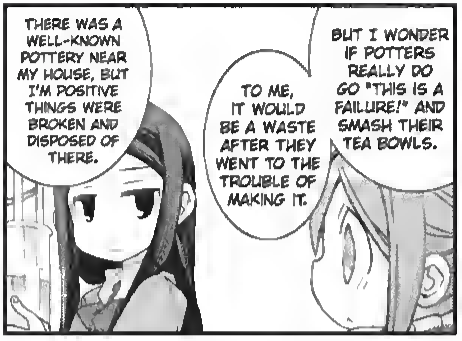

THAT'S RIGHT. AND SO...
...THIS ONE... CHECK OUT THE NAME OF THE STUDENT WHO ENGRAVED THIS FOR "1952."
ABOUT 60 YEARS AGO...? WHOA... THAT'S SO LONG BEFORE I WAS BORN THAT I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT.
1952

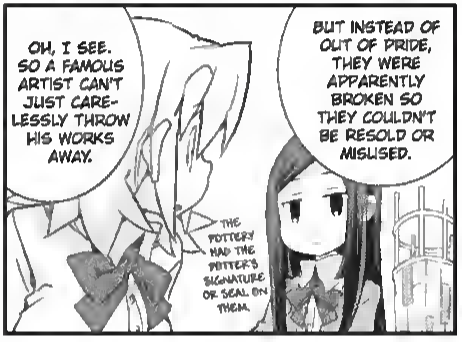
IT LOOKS LIKE ...
...THIS IS THE REAL NAME OF "MIKUNI TOUSAEMON V."
MI-KUNI? V...?
WHO IS THAT?
SENPAI, IT'S DANGER-OUS TO SIT DOWN LEGGED WHEN YOU'RE UP THIS HIGH!

SIMPLY PUT, A "LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE."
NATIONAL TREASURE !?
CRASH
CRASH
I'M TIRED OF HOLDING THE LADDER STEADY, SO I'M GOING TO LET GO HERE ANY MINUTE..

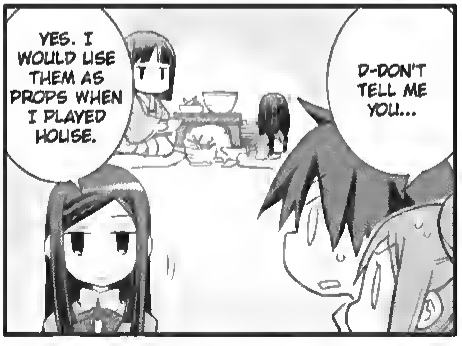
SLURP
WIPE THE DROOL OFF YOUR CHIN!
WH-WHAT IS IT?
NAMIKO-SAN, THIS IS GOING TO SOUND STRANGE...
YOU MEAN WHEN HE WAS UNKNOWN... OR WORKS FROM HIS EARLY CHILDHOOD?
...WOULD WORKS FROM HIS YOUTH ALSO BE WORTH A LOT OF MONEY?
IF THERE'S AN ARTIST WHO'S EXTREMELY TALENTED AND SUCCESSFUL ...
THE STONE RELIEF MICHEL-ANGELO SCULPTED WHEN HE WAS 15...
RELIEF!
...IS WORTH A FORTUNE NOW, RIGHT?
GOOD QUESTION.
I'VE HEARD THAT THERE ARE COLLECTORS OF PICASSO'S AND DALI'S CHILDHOOD DRAWINGS.
WE'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT ART HERE, RIGHT?
YUP.
I SEE. THEN THEY WOULD PROBABLY MAKE THE FOOD TASTE EVEN MORE DELICIOUS ...
GULP
MIKUNI TOUSAEMON... V...THERE!
AH, HE WAS A POTTER.
THIS PLATTER IS...SEVEN MILLION YEN!?
THIS RED-PAINTED CERAMIC INCENSE BURNER IS TWO MILLION YEN...
SO THIS IS THE TALENT OF A "NATIONAL TREASURE" .....
OHHH... MARVELOUS ...
SHE'S BEEN DROOLING WHILE GAZING AT PHOTOS OF DISHES THAT DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY FOOD ON THEM!
TOMOKANE-SAN, YOU LOOK PUZZLED.

A CHILD'S SENSE OF VALUES

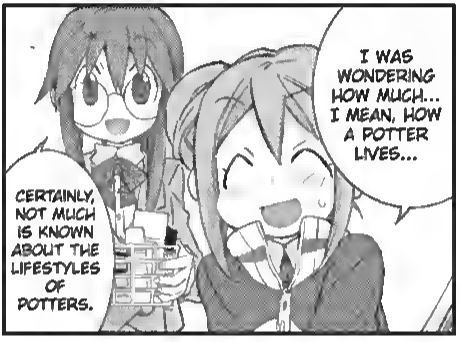

THERE WAS A WELL-KNOWN POTTERY NEAR MY HOUSE, BUT I'M POSITIVE THINGS WERE BROKEN AND DISPOSED OF THERE.
TO ME, IT WOULD BE A WASTE AFTER THEY WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF MAKING IT.
BUT I WONDER IF POTTERS REALLY DO GO "THIS IS A FAILURE!" AND SMASH THEIR TEA BOWLS.


OH, I SEE. SO A FAMOUS ARTIST CAN'T JUST CARELESSLY THROW HIS WORKS AWAY.
BUT INSTEAD OF OUT OF PRIDE, THEY WERE APPARENTLY BROKEN SO THEY COULDN'T BE RESOLD OR MISUSED.
THE POTTERY HAD THE POTTER'S SIGNATURE OR SEAL ON THEM.

I WOULD SNEAK THOSE RARE PIECES HOME AND COLLECT THEM.
ONCE IN A WHILE, I WOULD FIND A PIECE OF UNSCATHED POTTERY AMID ALL OF THE DISCARDED SHARDS.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT BACK WHEN I WAS A LITTLE KID, PLAYING NEAR THAT POTTERY.
REALLY?



JUST AN ACT OF MASOCHISM



I HAVE A MORE STOIC POTTER IMAGE.
THE IMAGE I HAVE IS OF A HERMIT WHO'S SEPARATED FROM THE EVERYDAY WORLD.
SOMEONE WHO'S VERY DISCIPLINED, PUT TOGETHER HIS OWN KILN, KNEADS HIS OWN CLAY...

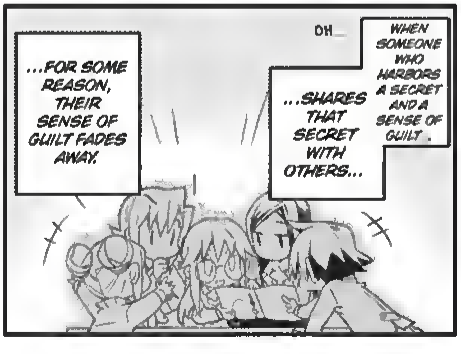
THAT "SMALL TOUCH" ISN'T A PART OF THE OFFICIAL PROCESS.
CRASH
IT'S A PROFESSION WHERE YOU SURRENDER TO ANGER AND SHATTER YOUR JUST-COMPLETED CONTAINER ON THE FLOOR, ISN'T IT?

TOPIC: MIYABI OOMICHI

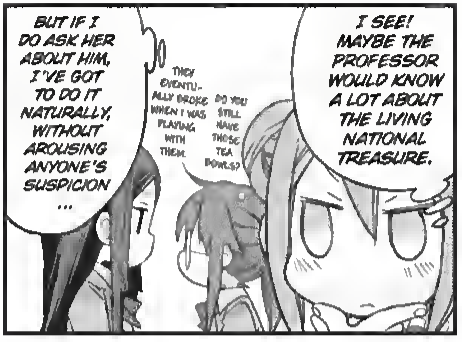
WHA?
...IF THERE WERE A WORK OF ART AT THIS SCHOOL THAT WAS MADE A LONG TIME AGO BY A LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE, HOW MUCH WOULD IT BE WORTH!?
THAT'S NOT THE POINT! WHAT I WANT TO ASK IS...

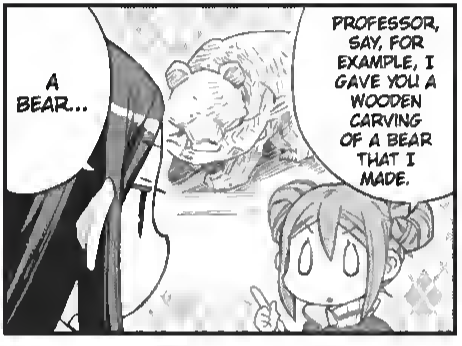
SHOOT! I JUST BLURTED IT OUT!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ACTING WEIRD. YOU WERE TRYING TO HIDE THAT FROM US, WEREN'T YOU?
SERI-OUSLY!? AT THIS SCHOOL !?
IS THERE... AN OLD WORK OF ART HERE?

WHERE DID YOU FIND IT IN THE SCHOOL?
AH! SHOW ME TOO.
HE'S IN HERE...
UM, SOMEBODY NAMED MIKUNI TOUSAEMON V...
AH!
SO?
WHAT IS THIS WORK OF ART BY A NATIONAL TREASURE? AND WHO IS IT?

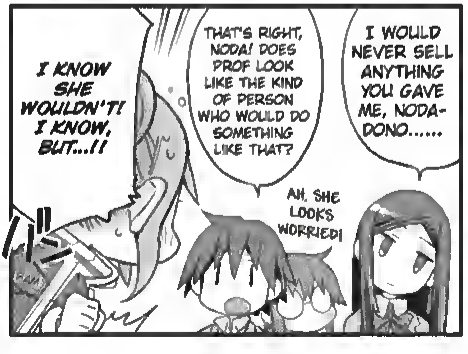

...FOR SOME REASON, THEIR SENSE OF GUILT FADES AWAY.
OH...
...SHARES THAT SECRET WITH OTHERS...
WHEN SOMEONE WHO HARBORS A SECRET AND A SENSE OF GUILT

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT NOW


BUT IF I DO ASK HER ABOUT HIM, I'VE GOT TO DO IT NATURALLY, WITHOUT AROUSING ANYONE'S SUSPICION ...
THEY EVENTU-ALLY BROKE WHEN I WAS PLAYING WITH THEM.
DO YOU STILL HAVE THOSE TEA BOWLS?
I SEE! MAYBE THE PROFESSOR WOULD KNOW A LOT ABOUT THE LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE.



...ME?
SO FAMOUS I BECOME, SAY, A LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE ...
AND THEN IN THE FUTURE, I BECOME FAMOUS!
HOW MUCH WOULD YOU SELL THAT CARVING FOR?

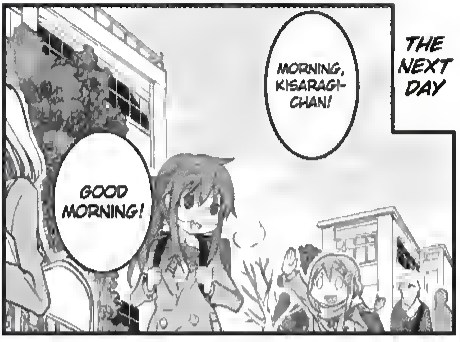

I KNOW SHE WOULDN'T! I KNOW, BUT...!!
THAT'S RIGHT, NODA! DOES PROF LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I WOULD NEVER SELL ANYTHING YOU GAVE ME, NODA-DONO.....
AH, SHE LOOKS WORRIED!
FAM!

PRETTY THREATENING CHUBU DIALECT

I THOUGHT IT WAS HIS GRADUATION PROJECT.
REALLY? I HEARD HE OWED THE DIRECTOR A FAVOR FOR SOMETHING A LONG TIME AGO.
HE GAVE IT TO THE SCHOOL POSTHU-MOUSLY, RIGHT?
WHICH RELIEF DID THE "LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE" MAKE?

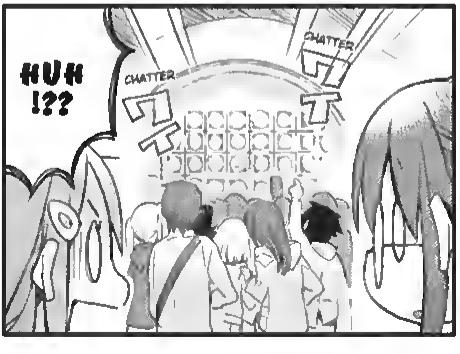
YOU SOWED THE SEEDS YOUR-SELF!!
THANK YOU GO!
AH, ALTHOUGH IT DID SLIP OUT WHEN I WAS TALKING TO AN OLD FRIEND FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL LAST NIGHT...
PHOO
THAT'S STRANGE. I TOLD MY SISTER NOT TO TELL ANYONE ELSE...

CROWD



AH, BEFORE WE GO TO CLASS, CAN WE DROP BY SOME-WHERE?
I WANTED TO SEE THE WORK BY THAT LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT YESTERDAY.
AH-HA-HA! ALREADY QUITE THE FANGIRL, I SEE!

IT'S IN THE HALLWAY ON THE LEFT AS SOON AS YOU WALK IN, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S ALWAYS DARK FROM THE SHADE OF THE ENTRANCE, SO NOBODY BOTHERS STOPPING...



RECKLESS RUMOR-LOVING

HONESTLY, IF IT HAD BEEN THAT VALUABLE, I WOULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT AT ALL.
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED ME TO KEEP IT SECRET BECAUSE IT'S VALUABLE...

CRAFTY ...
I BET THE RUMOR KEEPS GETTING EMBELLISHED IN THE TELLING.
STILL, I'M SURPRISED BY HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE TURNED OUT IN JUST ONE DAY.
CHATTER...
CHATTER

YOU'VE BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE YESTERDAY, HOMURA-SAN.
YES, YES. I'VE HEARD.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR!? THE HIDING PLACE FOR THE LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE'S BURIED GOLD IS IN THE SCHOOL'S GRADUATION RELIEF, BUT IT'S ENCRYPTED—
BOOK
RAM
ばーん

DROOL TOO TURNS TO DESERT

IT HAS NO VALUE !?
EVEN THOUGH THE WORK ITSELF DOESN'T HAVE ANY REAL VALUE.
I GUESS EVERYONE BECAME INTERESTED WHEN THEY HEARD ABOUT THE LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE

LISTEN!
AH!
LISTEN, A LIVING "NATIONAL TREASURE" DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING THE ARTIST MAKES SELLS IT REFERS TO A "SKILL" OF TRADITIONAL VALUE THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN.
LIKE SOMEONE WHO PERFORMS GAGAKU OR A RAKUGO STORY-TELLER... IN MIKUNI-SHI'S CASE, IT'S THE ART OF KUTANI WARE
NO, THE MAN HIMSELF CREATED THAT.
AH, THEN IT WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON, HUH!?

CRACK
SHE BROKE!!
...BUT A WORK THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TRUE TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFT HAS NO MEANING AS A "NATIONAL TREASURE."
SO THIS ISN'T ENTIRELY WORTH-LESS...

MISFIRE

STILL, WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THIS BOOK? IT WAS AN IMPULSE BUY WHEN I WAS TAKEN IN BY THE NATIONAL TREASURE.
WHY NOT READ IT? YOU COULD USE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY TRADITIONAL ART FORMS TOO.

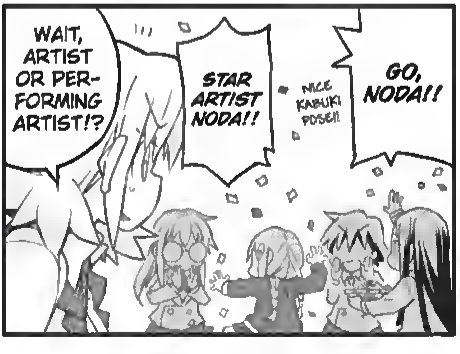
BOOK: LIVING NATIONAL TREASURES

HEY, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY GET INTO POTTERY!
SPINNING A POTTERY WHEEL YOURSELF IS FUN TOO...
AH-HA-HA! BESIDES, IT'S ALMOST WINTER BREAK. SO IT WOULD BE PERFECT TIMING!

LET'S MEET IN THE WORLD OF THEATER

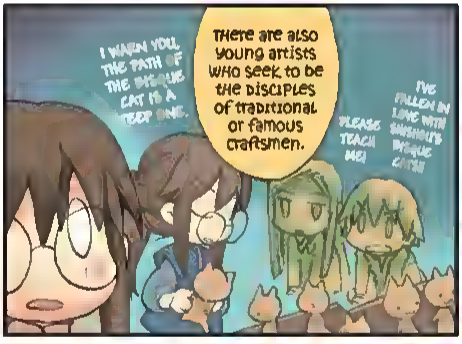
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, THE EXPRESSION "LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE" HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US MERE MORTALS
I WAS TAKEN FOR A RIDE.

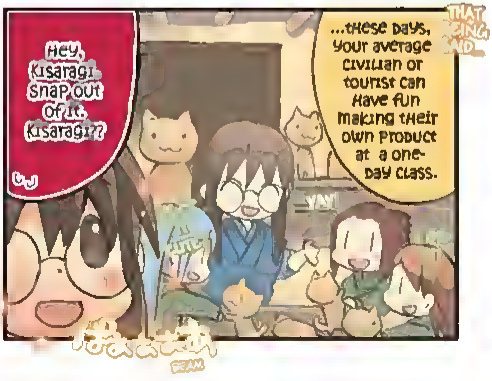
I WOULDN'T NECESSARILY SAY IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US.
TRUE. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT'S IN STORE FOR ONE OF US IN THE FUTURE.
AH!! I SEE!
IT'S NOT A BIT CHARACTER, AT LEAST.



OH!
It sounds right up your alley, Kisaragi-chan.
It's laborious, unpretentious, down-to-earth work.
There are plenty of female craftsmen too.
My impression of craftsmen is that they're all stubborn old men.

.. and quietly produce work every day while aiming to create a masterpiece.
You could have your own workshop, fire up your own kiln...
There are all kinds of types.


I warn you, the path of the antique cat is a treacherous one.
There are also young artists who seek to be the disciples of traditional or famous craftsmen.
Please teach me!
I've fallen in love with Shimenawa's antique cats!

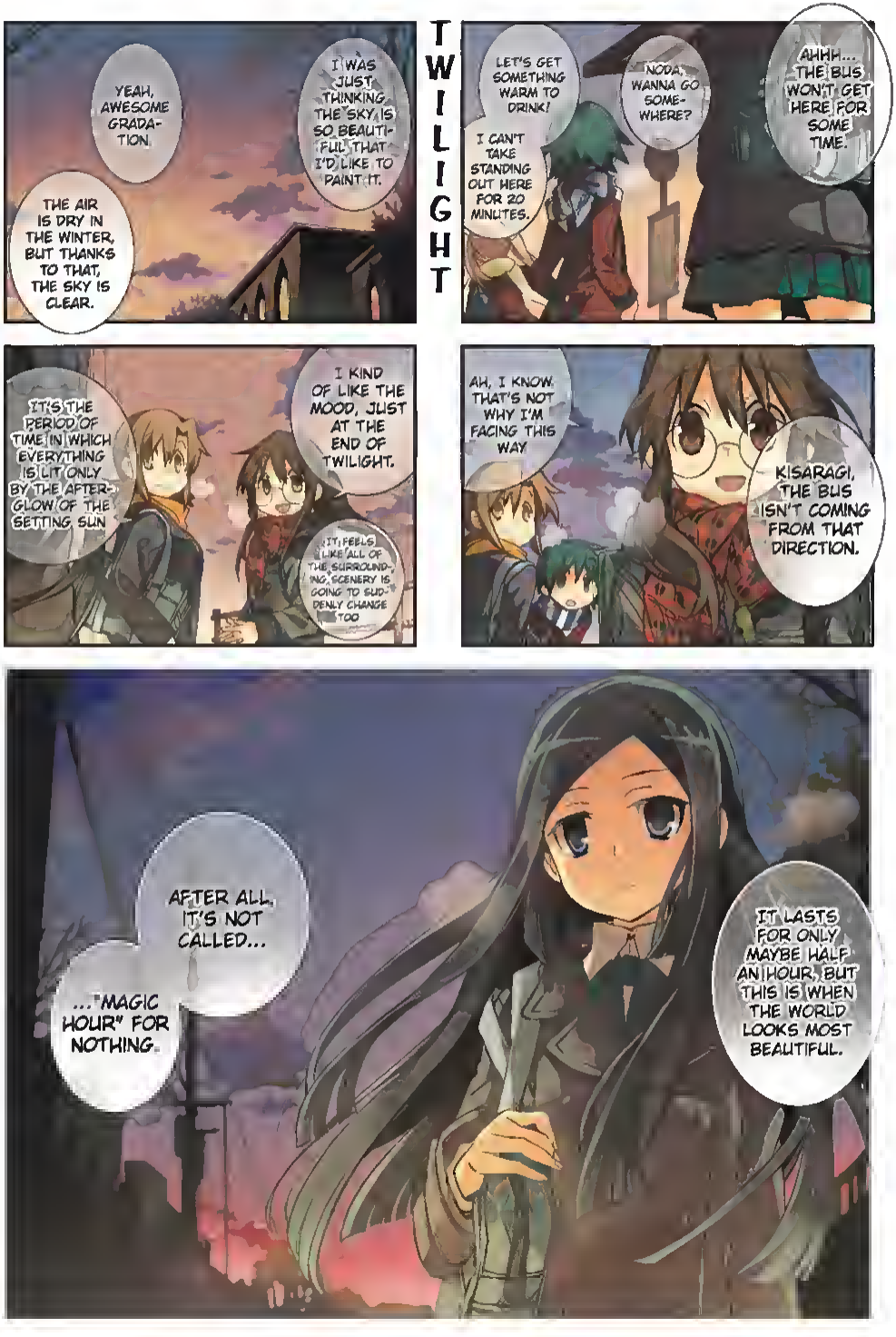

Hey, Kisaragi, snap out of it, Kisaragi??
...these days, your average civilian or tourist can have fun making their own product at a one-day class.
That being said...
Yay!

CRAFTSMAN

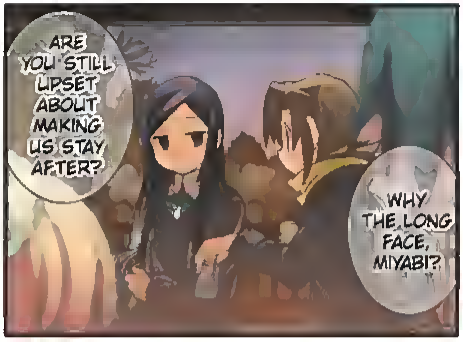
AN OCCUPATION INVOLVING THE PRODUCTION OF PRACTICAL GOODS WITH ARTISTIC VALUE AND QUALITY, AS WELL AS TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN FOR GENERATIONS.

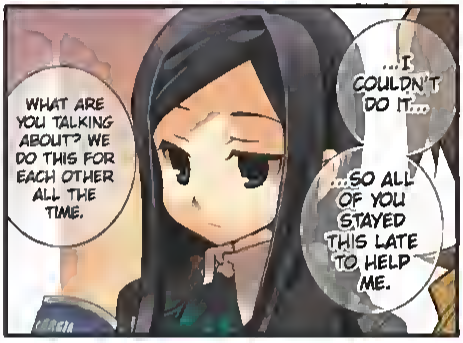
RELATED OCCUPATIONS

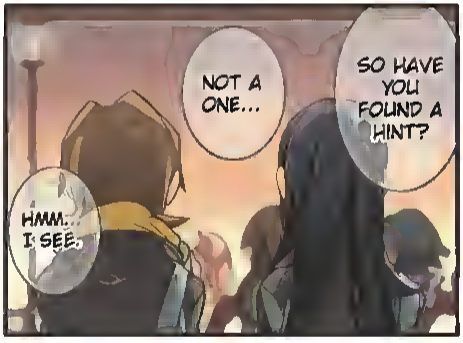
• POTTER • PAINTER • ENGRAVER •
• TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMAN • CARPENTER •
• GLASSWORKER • ETC. •


TWILIGHT
I WAS JUST THINKING, THE SKY IS SO BEAUTIFUL THAT I'D LIKE TO PAINT IT.
YEAH, AWESOME GRADATION.
THE AIR IS DRY IN THE WINTER, BUT THANKS TO THAT, THE SKY IS CLEAR.
LET'S GET SOMETHING WARM TO DRINK!
I CAN'T TAKE STANDING OUT HERE FOR 20 MINUTES.
NODA, WANNA GO SOMEWHERE?
AHHH... THE BUS WON'T GET HERE FOR SOME TIME.
I KIND OF LIKE THE MOOD, JUST AT THE END OF TWILIGHT.
IT'S THE PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH EVERYTHING IS LIT ONLY BY THE AFTERGLOW OF THE SETTING SUN.
IT FEELS LIKE ALL OF THE SURROUNDING SCENERY IS GOING TO SUDDENLY CHANGE TOO.
AH, I KNOW. THAT'S NOT WHY I'M FACING THIS WAY.
KISARAGI, THE BUS ISN'T COMING FROM THAT DIRECTION.
AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT CALLED...
..."MAGIC HOUR" FOR NOTHING.
IT LASTS FOR ONLY MAYBE HALF AN HOUR, BUT THIS IS WHEN THE WORLD LOOKS MOST BEAUTIFUL.

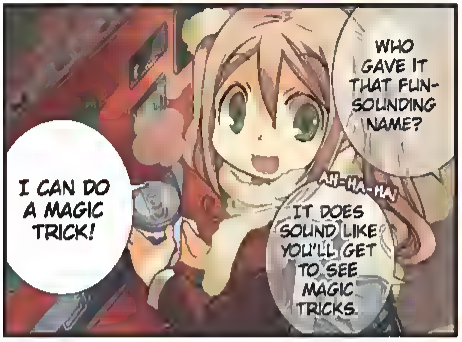
MAGIC TIME

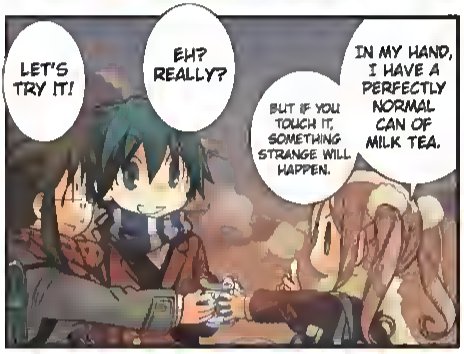


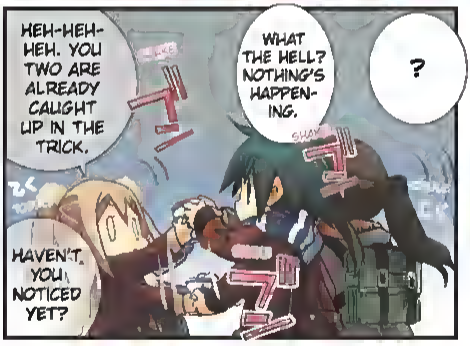




GRIMM'S FAIRY TALE: THE GOLDEN GOOSE

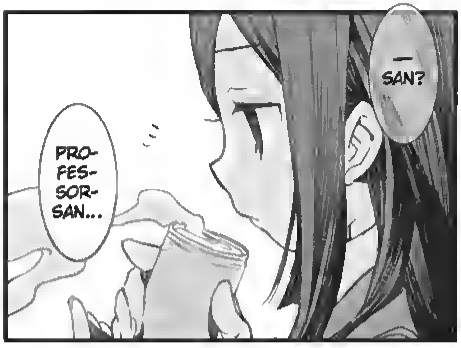




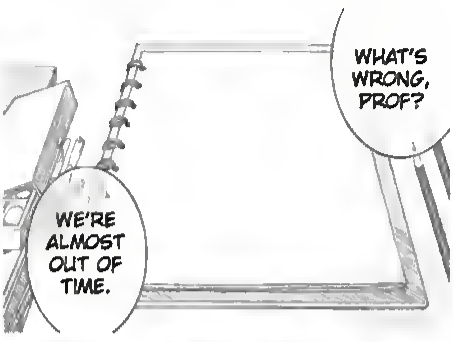


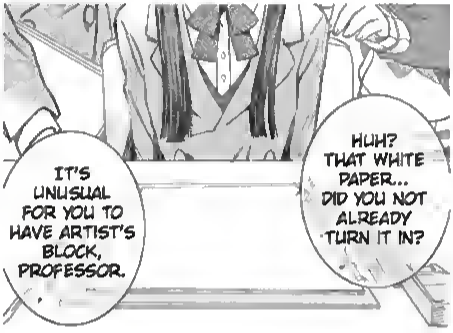
IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND DRINK IT, IT'LL GET LUKE-WARM!
HUH !!?
THIS IS WINTER-EDITION "WHEN YOU TOUCH A WARM CAN, YOUR HANDS REFUSE TO LET GO" MAGIC!

TAKING A TURN FOR THE WORSE



MECHANICAL BRAIN

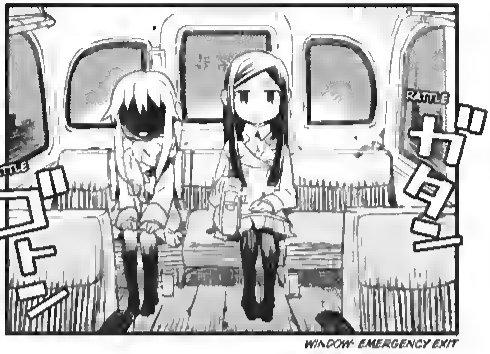




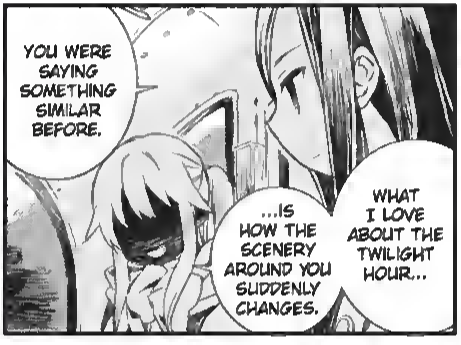
BOARD: ASSIGNMENT THEME "FANTASY"

DAYDREAM

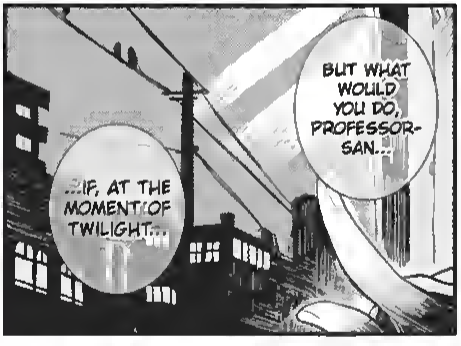
...TURNING THE EVERYDAY LANDSCAPE INTO FANTASY...
WELL, I DO LOVE...
YOU'RE NOT...
...KISA-RAGI-DONO?


RATTLE
ガタン
RATTLE
ゴトン
WINDOW: EMERGENCY EXIT

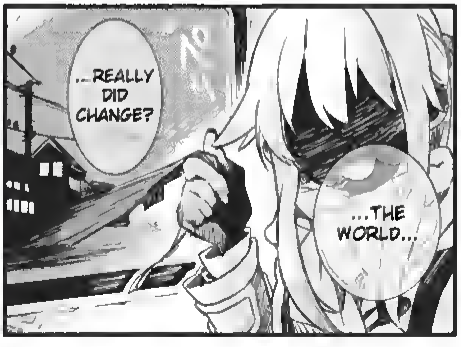
...WHAT'S INSIDE MY HEAD WHEN I'M FANTASIZING.
...BUT I'M BAD AT EXPLAINING...
FLAP
FLAP


YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING SIMILAR BEFORE.
...IS HOW THE SCENERY AROUND YOU SUDDENLY CHANGES.
WHAT I LOVE ABOUT THE TWILIGHT HOUR...

THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD ACTUALLY COME...
...AND SEE "THIS WORLD" FOR YOURSELF, PROFESSOR-SAN.
SEE WHAT...?
WINDOW: EMERGENCY EXIT


BUT WHAT WOULD YOU DO, PROFESSOR-SAN...?
...IF, AT THE MOMENT OF TWILIGHT...

SEE...
...YOU LATER.

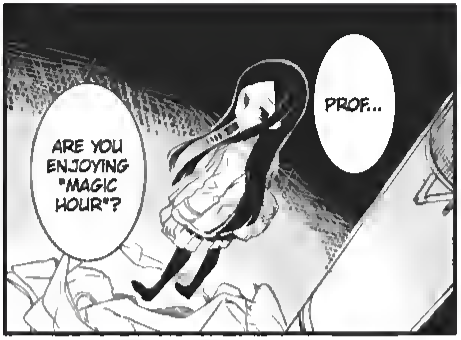

...REALLY DID CHANGE?
...THE WORLD...

FANCY

...WHAT DOES...
...THIS FANTASY MEAN?
HUH? MEAN...?
I HEAR YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO "FANTA-SIZE"?
WELCOME, PROFESSOR!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TRY TO IMAGINE SOMETHING FIRST...
.....
...I DON'T KNOW IF MY FUTURE WILL EVER GET TO THAT POINT.
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS...
...BUT I, OFTEN THINK ABOUT THE PAST AND FUTURE.
...IN MY IMAGINA-TION...
WELL, PROFES-SOR...
OF COURSE I DO...
...OR SOME-THING YOU WANT TO BECOME?
DON'T YOU HAVE A DREAM...
IN THE REAL WORLD...
...SOME-THING CAN TAKE YEARS OR DECADES...
...OF GIVING FORM TO SOMETHING THAT'S NOT REALISTIC.
...BUT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE POINT...
...BUT IN A FANTASY...
...NO MATTER WHO OR WHAT YOU WANT TO BE, YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

FANTASY

I SEE.
YOUKAI AND THE WORLD OF FAIRY TALES...
...WERE BORN FROM FANTASIES.
BUT I DON'T THINK...
...THIS IS THE KIND OF FANTASY I'M LOOKING FOR EITHER.


PROF...
ARE YOU ENJOYING "MAGIC HOUR"?

BUT DUSK... THIS PERIOD OF TIME...
ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE . TOMOKANE-DONO?

HOW DOES IT DIFFER?
...I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

...HAS ANOTHER NAME IN JAPANESE.
...YOU DON'T MEAN...

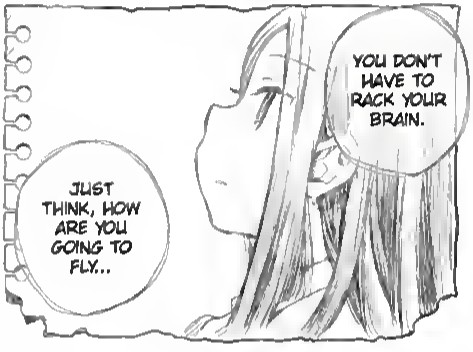
TCH. NOTHING BUT COMPLAINTS ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S FANTASIES...
GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE.

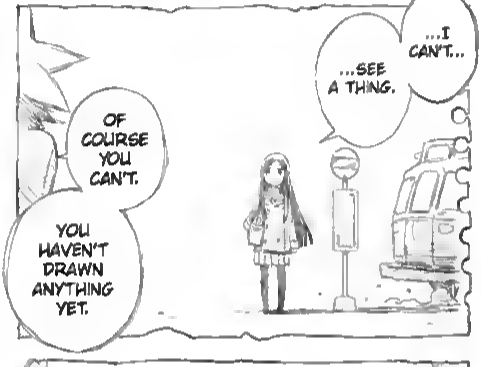
THAT'S RIGHT. "OUMAGA-TOKI."
THE WITCHING HOUR.

VISION

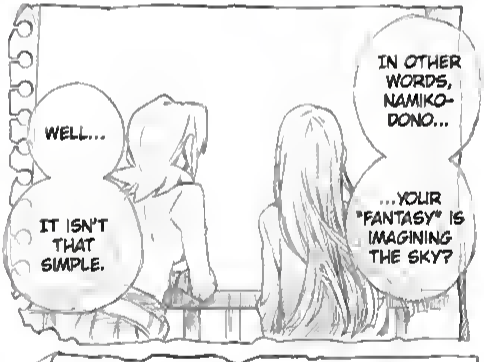
THAT'S BEEN ONE OF THE HALLMARKS OF HUMANITY THROUGH THE AGES.
...IS "HARNESS THE POWER OF IMAGINATION," RIGHT?
ONE MEANING OF "SPREAD YOUR WINGS"...

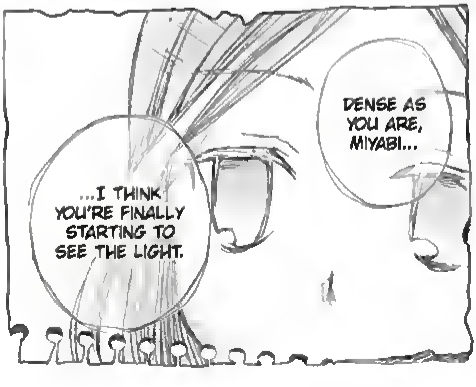
ISN'T THE SKY BEAUTIFUL?
MIYABI, COME HERE.
AH.


JUST THINK, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FLY...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RACK YOUR BRAIN.


YOU HAVEN'T DRAWN ANYTHING YET.
OF COURSE YOU CAN'T.
...SEE A THING.
...I CAN'T...

WELL?
...AND WHAT KIND OF SKY ARE YOU GOING TO FLY THROUGH?


IT ISN'T THAT SIMPLE.
WELL...
...YOUR "FANTASY" IS IMAGINING THE SKY?
IN OTHER WORDS, NAMIKO-DONO...


...I THINK YOU'RE FINALLY STARTING TO SEE THE LIGHT.
DENSE AS YOU ARE, MIYABI...

...FIRST FLEW IN PEOPLE'S IMAGINATIONS, RIGHT?
BUT AIRPLANES AND SPACE-SHIPS...

IMAGINE

YOU WERE WORRYING ABOUT "FANTASIZING" FROM FIRST PERIOD 'TILL AFTER SCHOOL.
I BET YOU OVERUSED A PART OF YOUR BRAIN THAT'S USUALLY BARELY TOUCHED.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

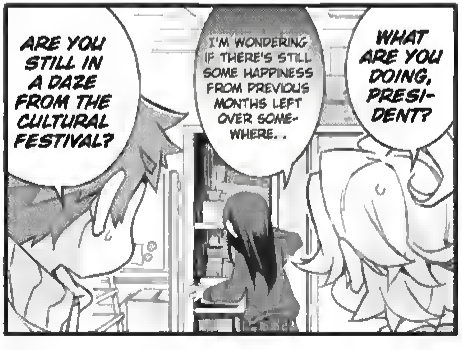
EVEN DURING LUNCH BREAK, YOU WERE ASKING US QUESTIONS...
...ALTHOUGH IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE OUR ANSWERS WERE OF MUCH USE.
...NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.

ABOUT 20 MINUTES OF MAGIC

THE GOLDEN AGE ONE MONTH AGO

BAM
SOMETHING'S GOT YOU ALL POLITY, HUH?
SHE'S GOT A WORKSHOP THIS WEEK, SO SHE CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE CLUB.
MIZU-BUCHI-SENPAI ISN'T WITH YOU?

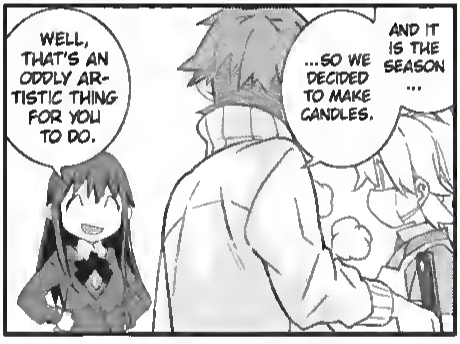
THE ART CLUB IN DECEMBER ...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A LONG TIME.
HE PROBABLY WON'T COME BACK IN 'TILL NEXT YEAR.
WHAT ABOUT UOZUMI-SENPAI?
...SOME-HOW FELT A LITTLE LONELY TO ME.

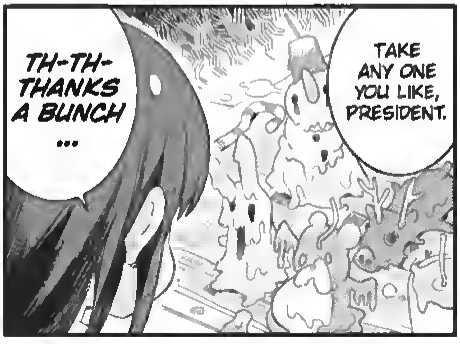

ARE YOU STILL IN A DAZE FROM THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL?
I'M WONDERING IF THERE'S STILL SOME HAPPINESS FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS LEFT OVER SOME-WHERE. .
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, PRESI-DENT?

...AND EVERYONE THREW THEM-SELVES INTO PREPARING FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
WE HAD MORE FIRST-YEARS...
EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS A FUN PLACE TO BE UP TILL ABOUT A MONTH AGO. .

SUDDENLY LAPSING INTO KANSAI DIALECT

...BUT THEN WE LOOKED AROUND THE ROOM FOR SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH AND FOUND THIS!
AT FIRST, WE HAD NOTHING TO DO, SO HOMURA-SAN STARTED MELTING LEAD AND PEWTER...
THEY'RE NOT FOR EMER-GENCY USE, ARE THEY?





PRESIDENT'S TENACITY

DON'T HASSLE US WHEN WE'VE GOT MIDTERM EXAMS COMING UP.
YOU TWO DON'T HAVE ENOUGH SPIRIT!
AFTER YOU'RE DONE DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING, THE FIRST THING ON THE TO-DO LIST IS DECIDE WHETHER TO SHUT DOWN THE CLUB.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SOME-ONE ACTUALLY USE THAT AS AN INSULT BEFORE.
BORE WORAN
PLOP
HUH !?

DON'T SWEAT IT. IF NEED BE, UOZUMI WILL DO IT HE'S A MAN WHO ALWAYS LOOKS OUT FOR NUMBER ONE.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU WOULD DECIDE ON THE NEXT PRESIDENT.
AFTER ALL, UP UNTIL RECENTLY, YOU WATCHED OVER US AS WE STUDIED...

HUH? WHY?
EVEN AFTER THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL, YOU CAN'T "GRADUATE" TO THE OTHER SIDE?
YOU'RE NOT, BY ANY CHANCE, A GHOST WHO'S BOUND TO THE ART CLUB, ARE YOU?
PRESI-DENT...

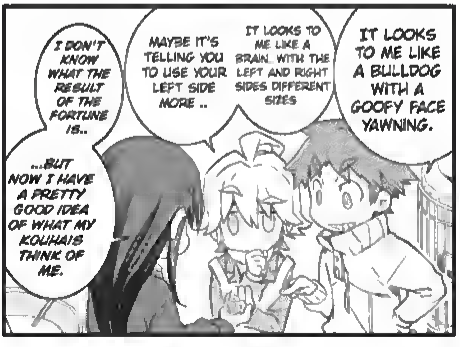
SECRET PLAY

BUCHI-SAN OR HOZUMI SHOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
IT'S BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN ABSENT.
ARE SECOND-YEAR CLUB MEMBERS HERE?

HEY, WHAT THE HELL? I'M THE CLUB ADVISER. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KEEP THAT STUFF SECRET FROM ME.
YAY!
YAY!
(EWW! IT STUCK TO MY CLOTHES!)
RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE GETTING THEIR KICKS FROM DRIPPING WAX.

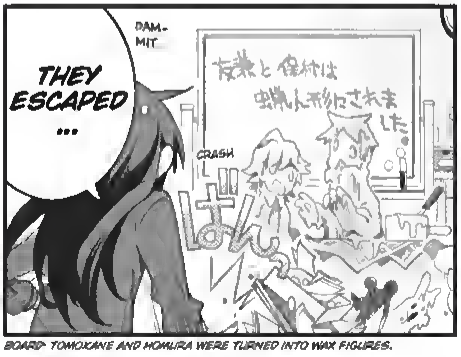
PSYCHOLOGY QUIZ

YOU DROP MELTED LEAD OR TIN OR WAX IN A BOWL OF WATER...
ALTHOUGH YOU'RE REALLY SUPPOSED TO DO IT THE NIGHT OF NEW YEAR'S EVE...
LET'S SEE. LIKE THIS?
...AND TELL YOUR FORTUNE FROM THE SHAPE IT HARDENS INTO


IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE A BULLDOG WITH A GOOFY FACE YAWNING.
IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE A BRAIN. WITH THE LEFT AND RIGHT SIDES DIFFERENT SIZES
MAYBE IT'S TELLING YOU TO USE YOUR LEFT SIDE MORE ..
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE RESULT OF THE FORTUNE IS..
...BUT NOW I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT MY KOUHAIS THINK OF ME.

THE CURSE OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE DEMON

SINCE IT'S DECEMBER...
WELL, I HAVE A LOT TO DO, SO I'M GOING BACK...
...BUT BE SURE TO TURN OFF THE STOVE AND LOCK UP.
AND DO THE EXPENSE REPORT.
I WILL.

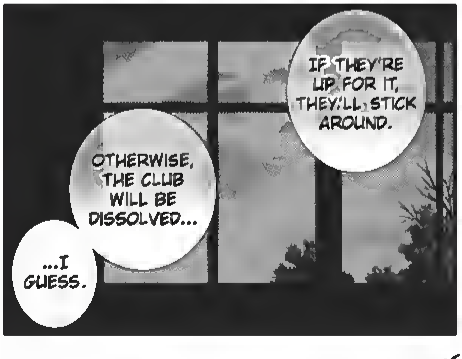


BOARD: TOMOKANE AND HOMURA WERE TURNED INTO WAX FIGURES.

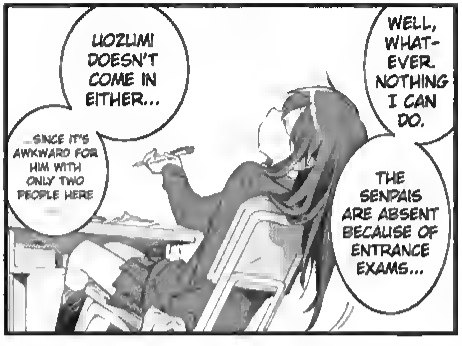
HESITATING AUTHORITY

YOU SHOULD REALLY TURN THE KEYS OVER TO HOMURA AND TOMOKANE.
AH... YEAH.
IF THERE HAD BEEN MORE MEMBERS HANGING AROUND, I COULD'VE RETIRED WITHOUT HESITATION...

WELL, IN MY OWN WAY...
...I DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP AND FIGURED I'D CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT 'TILL GRADUATION
THEN THE KOUHAIS CAN DECIDE...
...WHAT TO DO NEXT YEAR.

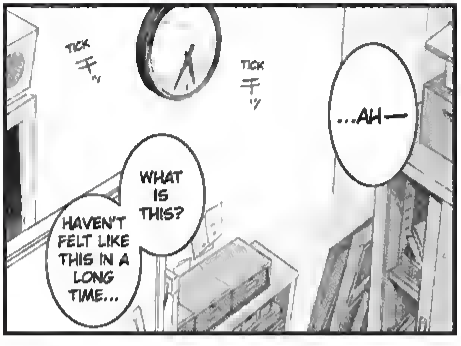


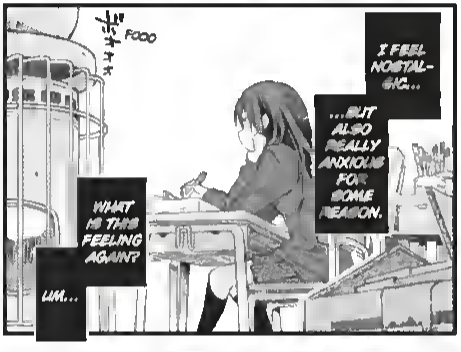
LONE FLASHBACK

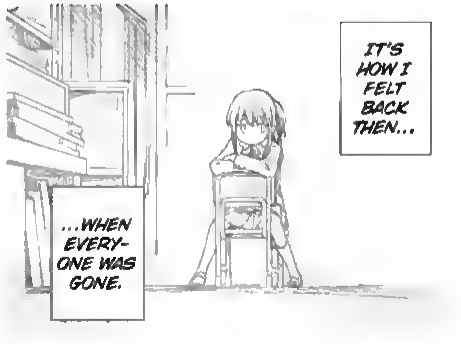

UOZUMI DOESN'T COME IN EITHER...
...SINCE IT'S AWKWARD FOR HIM WITH ONLY TWO PEOPLE HERE
WELL, WHATEVER. NOTHING I CAN DO.
THE SENPAIS ARE ABSENT BECAUSE OF ENTRANCE EXAMS...

YIKES. I MAY...
...BE SERIOUSLY LONELY.
...BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN ALONE IN A ROOM SINCE THAT ONE TIME...
...SO WHY AM I FEELING LIKE THIS?

THE ICE AGE OF TWO YEARS AGO







IN THE SAME BOAT

AS I PUNCHED AND BERATED YOU, TEARS WERE STREAMING DOWN MY CHEEKS
I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW UNFAIR IT WAS, HOW MAD I WAS, AND HOW MUCH OF A GEEK YOU WERE
BUT...
AND WHEN YOU SAW THAT...
...I'M STILL HAPPY YOU CAME, UOZUMI.
...I FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE ME ALONE AGAIN.
THANK GOODNESS YOU CAME...
I'LL STAY HERE WITH YOU TO THE END.
...ALL RIGHT ALREADY.

SHARED MEMORY

WAKE UP, AWARA.
YOU'RE DROOLING.
CLEAN UP THAT DESK.
I WAS WALKING PAST THE GATES...
...WHEN I SAW THAT THE LIGHTS WERE ON IN HERE.
...HUH?
UOZUMI, YOU CAME. YOU'RE LATE.
.....
YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO CHECK THE ROOM?
...BUT FROM THE SECOND SCHOOL BUILDING, COMING HERE WOULD'VE BEEN A DETOUR.
I'M STILL TRAUMA-TIZED...
AH! YEAH, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!
...FROM TWO YEARS AGO AROUND NEW YEAR'S, WHEN YOU YELLED, "YOU'RE LATE!!" AND DECKED ME WITH A HARD RIGHT, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE STILL GROGGY.
NOW I REMEMBER
FSHH

WAX MOOD KILLER

WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO SAY IT NOW THAT I'VE LOST THE INITIATIVE HERE?
AH! THAT'S RIGHT.
NOW I REMEMBER.
I'VE GOT ONE MORE FAVOR TO ASK.
RATTLE

WORDS ABOVE GRATITUDE

LATE AUTUMN KATYDIDS

DESPITE RELYING ON PRACTICAL SKILLS, YOU REST ON YOUR LAURELS TOO MUCH.
I WAS POSITIVE YOU WOULD NOMINATE SOMEONE TODAY.
YOU'VE FINALLY REALIZED IT?
OH!
...AM I IN A PRECARIOUS POSITION?

N...
NO THANKS —!!
IF ALL GOES WELL, I CAN BE PRESIDENT HERE FOR ONE MORE YEAR!
THEN I... COULD HAVE ANOTHER TURN WITH THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL!
...MAYBE I'LL GET GOING...
OH NO, YOU DON'T! HOMURA-KUN, DON'T LET THE PRESIDENT ESCAPE!

SIGN: ART CLUB

WORDS OF FEATHERS, WORDS OF LEAD

...ALL OF THE MEMBERS CAME BACK AFTER A LONG ABSENCE.
ALL I'M DOING IS SKETCHES TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM...
...BUT AS LONG AS YOU DON'T MIND...
THE FOLLOWING WEEK..

OH MY. NOT HOLDING BACK, ARE YOU?
.....
NO THANKS, I'M MORE OF A TOAST PERSON
LET ME MAKE MISO SOUP FOR YOU EVERY MORNING!
BUCHI-SAN, I LOVE YOU!

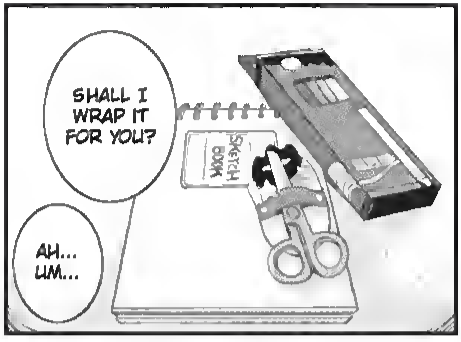
I KNOW.
THAT LEAVES AN EXTRA PIECE.
THE CAKE SET IS FIVE PIECES...
1/5
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!
YAY! WINTER BREAK STARTS TOMORROW!
YEAH, THAT WAS KIND OF WEIRD.
I DIDN'T EXPECT KISARAGI-CHAN...
...TO LEAVE BEFORE US.
OH!
WOW. YOU REALLY DID MEAN "PARTY."
...FROM AN EVENING TV SHOW CONTEST!
HEH-HEH. I WON A CHRISTMAS CAKE SET...
SHE SAID, "I WANT TO...
"...GO HOME ALONE TODAY."

CAN I TRY IT ON?

THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF LOVE AND AMBITION

SIGN: PAWN

TWO-MONTH ADVANCE



SIGN: CHRISTMAS WRAPPING

THE RUNNERS-UP ARE SHUNU AND SHIRATAKI

SIGN: WINTER KNIT, HANDMADE

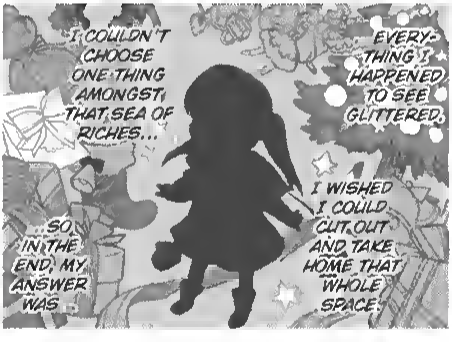
HMM... THERE'S ALSO HER TASTES TO CONSIDER.
MAYBE SHE WOULDN'T LIKE IT.
OR FOR SOMETHING HOMEMADE, MAYBE IT SHOULD BE A ONE TIME USE THING.

SPECTER
FLASHBACK
HEY, YOU PICKED UP WAY TOO MANY CAKE CATALOGS ON YOUR WAY HERE FROM SCHOOL.
AH
I SEE ONE, AND I CAN'T HELP TAKING IT.
WELL, MA-CHAN, HAVE YOU DECIDED?
NOT YET! I NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME!
EITHER WAY, IT'S TOO LATE TO PUT IN AN ORDER.
WAIT, SO YOU'RE NOT GONNA ACTUALLY BUY ONE OF THEM?
BUT...
JUST GAZING AT THE PHOTOS MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'VE HAD SOME.
OH MY. HMM...
I CAN'T CHOOSE BETWEEN THIS LOVELY DRESS SET...
...AND THE TALKING KITCHEN.
AH, YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
THERE'S JUST SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT.
...BUT I THINK EVERY-ONE ENJOYS CHRISTMAS IN THEIR OWN WAY.
IT'S AN UNUSUAL FEELING FOR ME...
...AND YOU CAN ASK SANTA-SAN FOR THE KITCHEN?
THEN WHY DON'T I BUY YOU THE DRESS...
OKAY!
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT KISARAGI SAID ABOUT THE FEELING OF CHRISTMAS ...
...WAS LIKE THAT TOO. A KIND OF WEIRD SENSATION.
—KISA-RAGI..
HAVE YOU FOUND SOMETHING YOU LIKE?

MATERIAL GIRL KISARAGI

OH, I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
THEN YOU MUST NOT BE MATERIALISTIC, KISARAGI-CHAN.
I MEAN, YOU WENT THROUGH CHILDHOOD WITHOUT EXPECTING ANY PRESENTS..

IF ANYTHING, IT'S PROBABLY THE OPPOSITE
...AND EVEN WHEN SHE TOLD ME I COULD PICK OUT ONE PRESENT FOR CHRISTMAS
MY MOTHER AND I WOULD GO TO A DEPARTMENT STORE.
AH, THANK YOU!

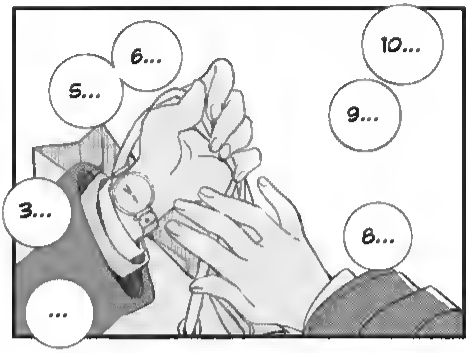

I COULDN'T CHOOSE ONE THING AMONGST THAT SEA OF RICHES...
EVERYTHING I HAPPENED TO SEE GLITTERED.
I WISHED I COULD CUT OUT AND TAKE HOME THAT WHOLE SPACE.
SO, IN THE END, MY ANSWER WAS

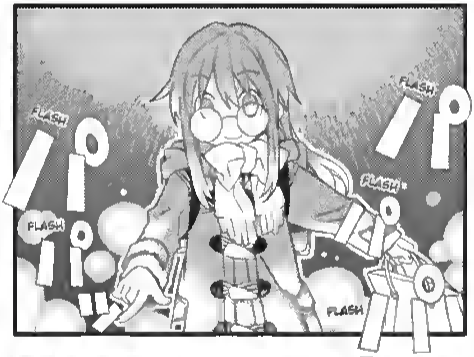
CAST ASIDE YOUR DOUBTS AND OVERCOME

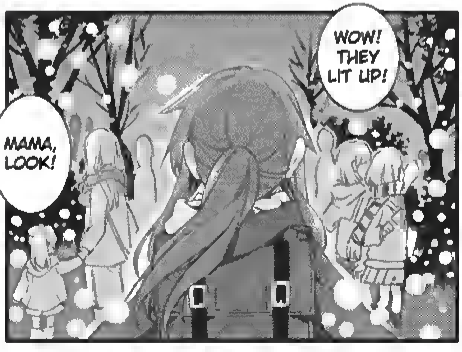
SANTA-SAN NEVER VISITED US.
I WAS WONDERING WHEN HE STOPPED COMING TO YOUR HOUSE.
FOR ME, THE LAST TIME WAS WHEN I WAS IN SIXTH GRADE.
YEAH.

KISARAGI, STARTING NEXT YEAR, COME TO SCHOOL BY FLYING NIMBUS.
YOU'D PROBABLY BE ABLE TO FLY IT.
AND BESIDES, WE'RE SHIN BUDDHISTS.
HUH? BUT OUR HOUSE DOESN'T HAVE A CHIMNEY ANYWAY...

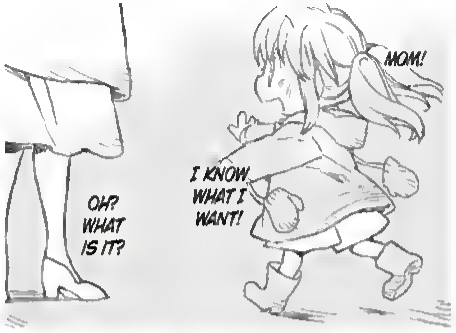
THE MAGIC OF FEELINGS ALONE

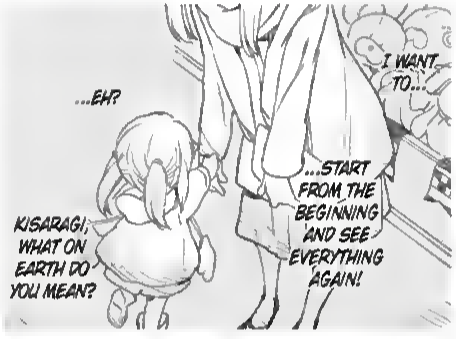






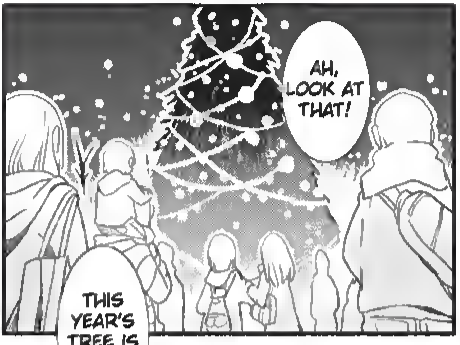
A FANTASY'S BEGINNING

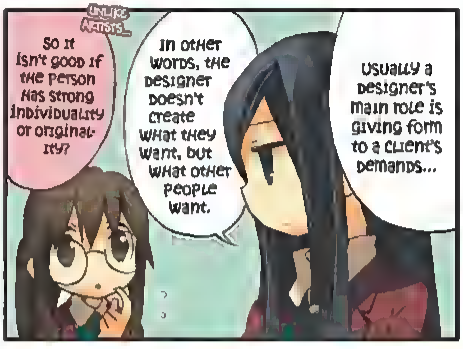


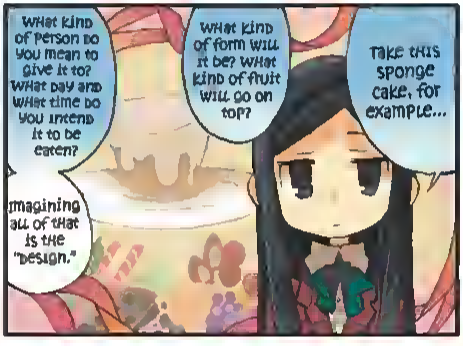


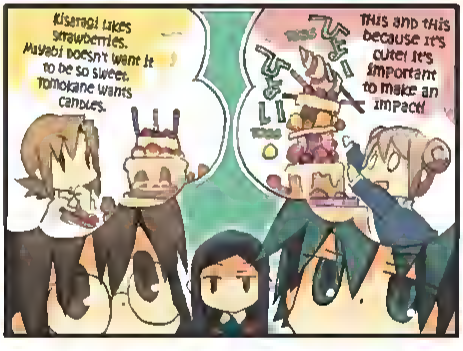
AN ANGEL'S INVITATION

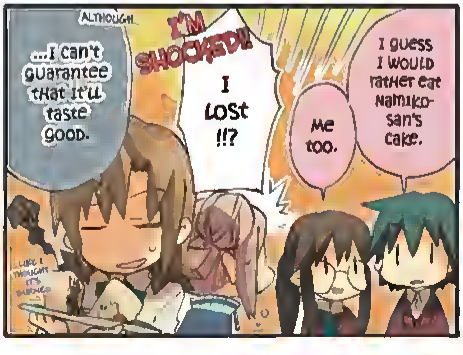
SO MANY




Unlike Nanami...
So it isn't good if the person has strong individuality or originality?
In other words, the designer doesn't create what they want, but what other people want.
Usually a designer's main role is giving form to a client's demands...

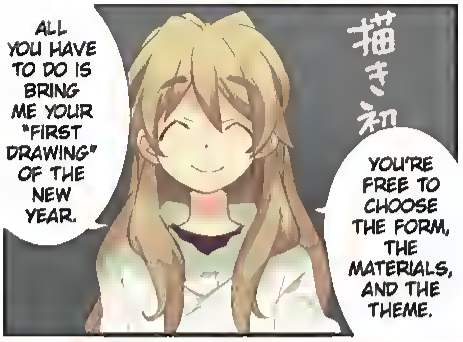

What kind of person do you mean to give it to? What day and what time do you intend it to be eaten?
Imagining all of that is the "design."
What kind of form will it be? What kind of fruit will go on top?
Take this sponge cake, for example...

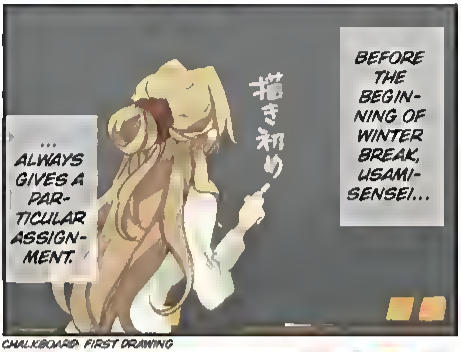

Kisaragi likes strawberries. Mayuzi doesn't want it to be so sweet. Tomokane wants candles.
This and this because it's cute! It's important to make an impact!


ALTHOUGH...
...I can't guarantee that it'll taste good.
I'M SHOCKED!
I LOST !!?
Me too.
I guess I would rather eat Namiko-san's cake.

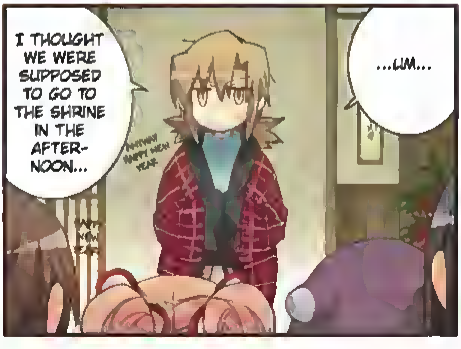
DESIGNER
DEVISES VISUAL DESIGNS IN THE FIELDS OF CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES, ARCHITECTURE, MANUFACTURING, COMMERCE, ETC.
RELATED OCCUPATIONS
• TEXTILE DESIGNER •
• PRODUCT DESIGNER •
• GRAPHIC DESIGNER •
• ART DIRECTOR • ETC. •

THE ONE-MONTH-EARLY ONI

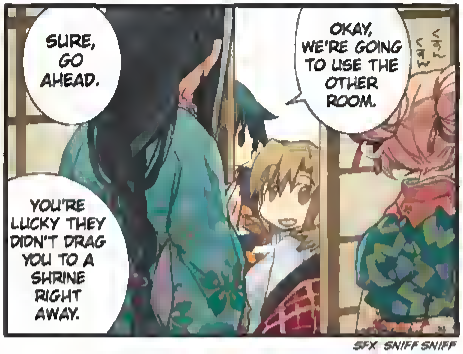

描き初め
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BRING ME YOUR "FIRST DRAWING" OF THE NEW YEAR.
YOU'RE FREE TO CHOOSE THE FORM, THE MATERIALS, AND THE THEME.



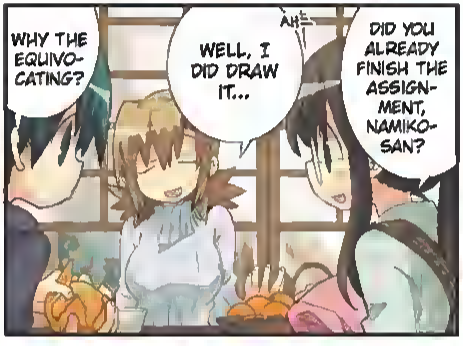
CHALKBOARD: FIRST DRAWING

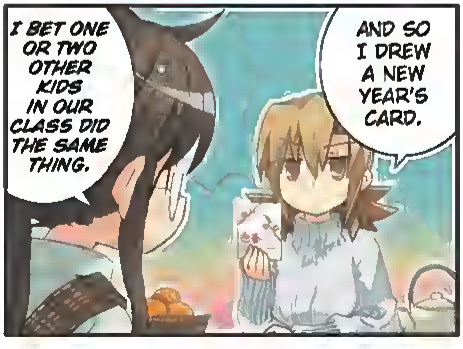


REALIZED HALFWAY

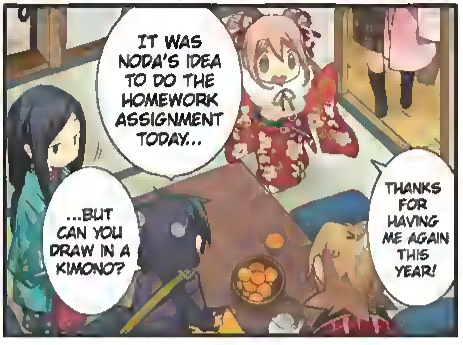


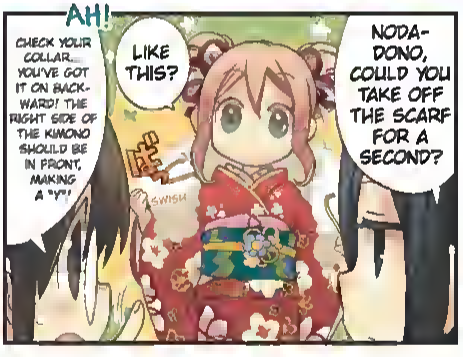
SFX SNIFF SNIFF

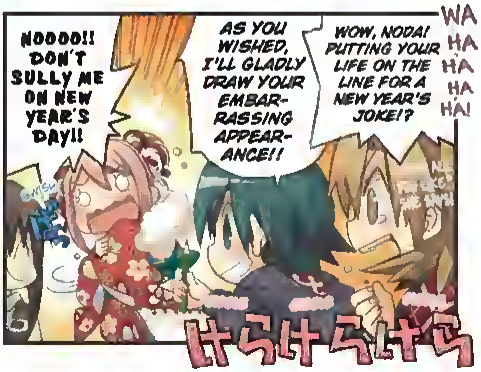




SIS HELPED ME GET DRESSED (VIA NET VIDEO)




AH!
CHECK YOUR COLLAR... YOU'VE GOT IT ON BACK-WARD! THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE KIMONO SHOULD BE IN FRONT, MAKING A "Y"!
LIKE THIS?
NODA-DONO, COULD YOU TAKE OFF THE SCARF FOR A SECOND?
SWISH


NOOOO!! DON'T SULLY ME ON NEW YEAR'S DAY!!
AS YOU WISHED. I'LL GLADLY DRAW YOUR EMBAR-RASSING APPEAR-ANCE!!
WOW, NODA! PUTTING YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE FOR A NEW YEAR'S JOKE!?
WA HA HA HA HA!
けらけらけら

ENGULFING ACCIDENT

I CAN ONLY PICTURE HALF OF THE SEVEN LUCKY GODS...
WHAT!? THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT!?
I ONLY KNOW ABOUT THE BRITISH SHIPS THAT BROUGHT CURRY OVER.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?

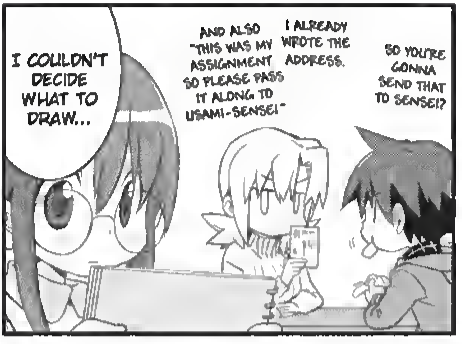
A TREASURE SHIP? THAT'S EASY! I'LL TELL YOU HOW.
UM, FIRST, THERE'S A MAST WITH THE WORD "TREASURE" ON IT...
AH...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT'S LIKE...
I BELIEVE IT'S LIKE...

SHIP: TREASURE

KISARAGI-DONO, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
WHAT!?
AH!! THAT'S RIGHT!!
WHAT ARE YOU "TCH"-ING ABOUT?
TCH!
FLASH
ONCE YOU PUT BRUSH TO PAPER, IT BECOMES THE FIRST DRAWING OF THE YEAR, ROUGH OR NOT.

SHIP: TREASURE

HAPPY JOLLY ROGER


I COULDN'T DECIDE WHAT TO DRAW...
AND ALSO "THIS WAS MY ASSIGNMENT SO PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO USAMI-SENSEI"
I ALREADY WROTE THE ADDRESS.
SO YOU'RE GONNA SEND THAT TO SENSEI?

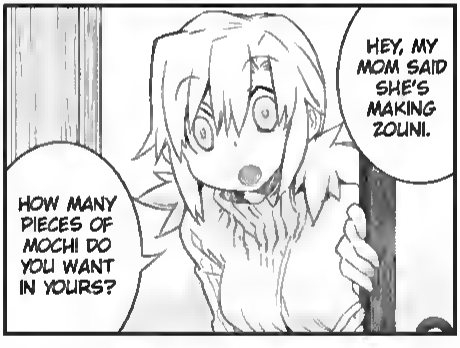
WHAT DID YOU REALLY INTEND TO DRAW, NAMIKO-SAN?
WELL, IT'S THE NEW YEAR, SO I WAS THINKING SOMETHING AUSPICIOUS. LIKE A TREASURE SHIP...

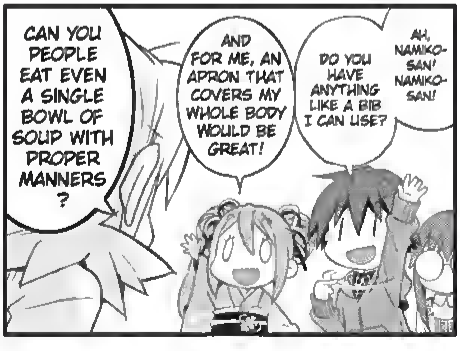
IT'S SAID TO BE GOOD LUCK IF YOUR HEAD'S ON THE PILLOW WHILE HAVING YOUR FIRST DREAM OF THE YEAR.
HM...
A TREASURE SHIP, HUH? UM, HOLD ON A SECOND.

ONLY IMAGES I'M BOUND TO FORGET KEEP POPPING INTO MY HEAD
THE SEVEN LUCKY GODS!! IT'S THE SHIP OF THE SEVEN LUCKY GODS!!
THAT'S PLAYING DIRTY!

ASSUMING A SPILL

BUT YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL WITH CHARCOAL ..
NOW THAT'S A "FIRST DRAWING OF THE YEAR!"
AND IN CHAR-COAL TOO! COOL!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU DON'T WANT TO GET YOUR KIMONO DIRTY!




CAN YOU PEOPLE EAT EVEN A SINGLE BOWL OF SOUP WITH PROPER MANNERS ?
AND FOR ME, AN APRON THAT COVERS MY WHOLE BODY WOULD BE GREAT!
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING LIKE A BIB I CAN USE?
AH, NAMIKO-SAN! NAMIKO-SAN!

AND THEN, I'LL HIDE IT IN THE ATTIC

TOMOKANE-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT?
HMM...I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP DRAWING WITH WHAT I'VE GOT.
WELL, I'LL MAKE IT WORK SOMEHOW.

SHIP: TREASURE

NO WONDER THE PICTURE ON YOUR NEW YEAR'S POSTCARD LOOKED LIKE A WEIRD ALPACA ..
EVEN WITH MY NEW YEAR'S POSTCARDS, I GOT THE ZODIAC YEAR WRONG, BUT FIXED IT BY TURNING MY HORSE INTO A SHEEP!
AH—

POSTCARD: YEAR OF THE SHEEP

YOU DID ALREADY WRITE "TREA-SURE"...
HMM...
IT'S EASY TO SAY YOU CAN FIX IT, BUT HOW CAN YOU GET THIS ON TRACK?
TURN IT INTO A LITTLE MONEY ENVE-LOPE?

ENVELOPE: TREASURE

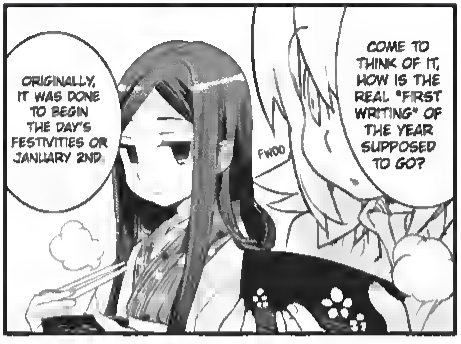
TWO PEOPLE, ONE BEAST

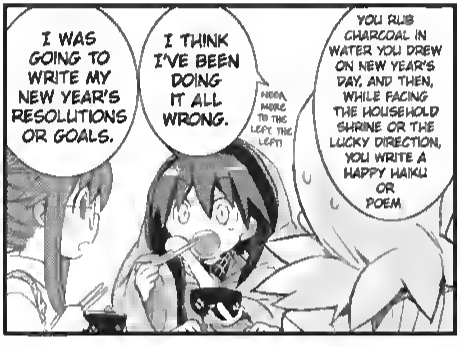
HUH? WAIT A SECOND. THE LION DANCE COULD BE PRETTY TOUGH TO DRAW.
AND I DON'T WANT TO BOTCH IT, BECAUSE I'D STILL HAVE TO TURN IT IN AS MY FIRST DRAWING OF THE YEAR..

SIX-WEEK EARLY OBLIGATION

I STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
NAMIKO-SAN, DO YOU HAVE A BOARD? SOME KIND OF BOARD?
RIGHT!
THEN YOU'D BETTER PREPARE A BOARD FIRST.

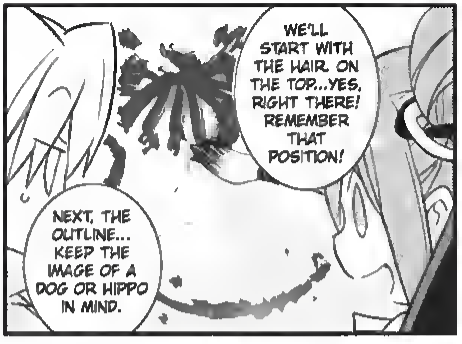
FIRST THOUGHT OF THE NEW YEAR

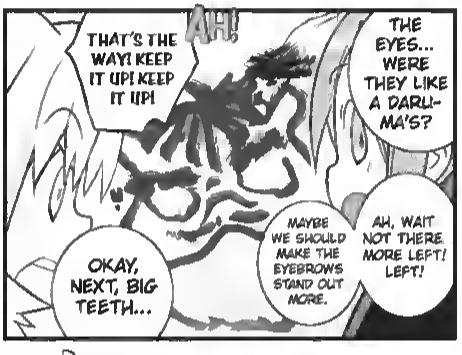

ORIGINALLY, IT WAS DONE TO BEGIN THE DAY'S FESTIVITIES ON JANUARY 2ND.
FWOO
COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW IS THE REAL "FIRST WRITING" OF THE YEAR SUPPOSED TO GO?

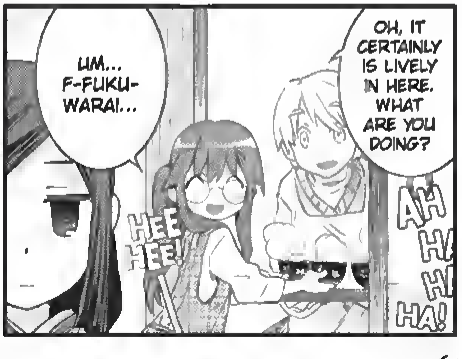

I WAS GOING TO WRITE MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS OR GOALS.
I THINK I'VE BEEN DOING IT ALL WRONG.
HMM... MORE TO THE LEFT. THE LEFT!
YOU RUB CHARCOAL IN WATER YOU DREW ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. AND THEN, WHILE FACING THE HOUSEHOLD SHRINE OR THE LUCKY DIRECTION, YOU WRITE A HAPPY HAIKU OR POEM.

MM.
IT MAY EVEN BE A GOOD IDEA TO DRAW THE KIND OF YEAR WE WANT TO HAVE.
OH, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT, THEN?
AS THEY SAY, "THE WHOLE YEAR'S PLANS SHOULD BE MADE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY."

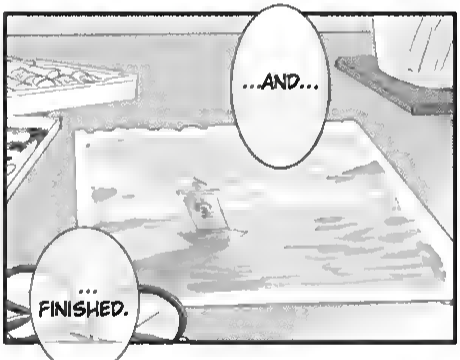
FULLY ENJOYING NEW YEAR'S


WE'LL START WITH THE HAIR ON THE TOP...YES, RIGHT THERE! REMEMBER THAT POSITION!
NEXT, THE OUTLINE... KEEP THE IMAGE OF A DOG OR HIPPO IN MIND.


AH!
THAT'S THE WAY! KEEP IT UP! KEEP IT UP!
THE EYES... WERE THEY LIKE A DARUMA'S?
MAYBE WE SHOULD MAKE THE EYEBROWS STAND OUT MORE.
AH, WAIT NOT THERE. MORE LEFT! LEFT!
OKAY, NEXT, BIG TEETH...



A SHIP FADING INTO THE MORNING MIST

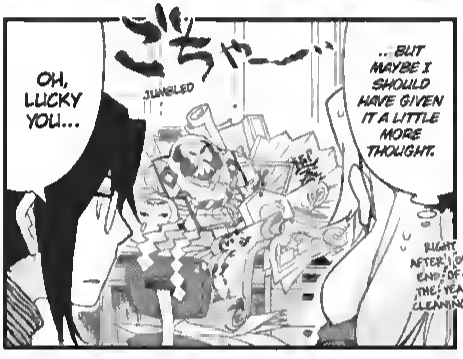


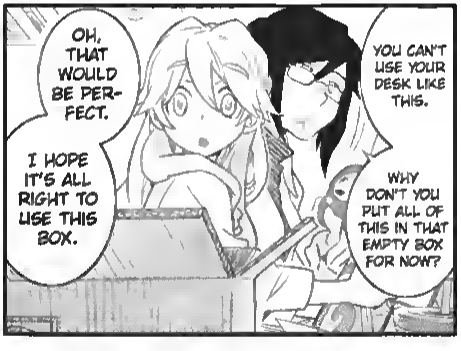
LEFT IS SERIOUS, RIGHT IS FOR FUN

YEAH, THERE IS SOMETHING CHARMING ABOUT IT.
...HAS GROWN ON ME WITH ITS OWN KIND OF CHARM, BUT...
THIS IMITATION LION DANCE ...
AND YET DISGUST-ING...

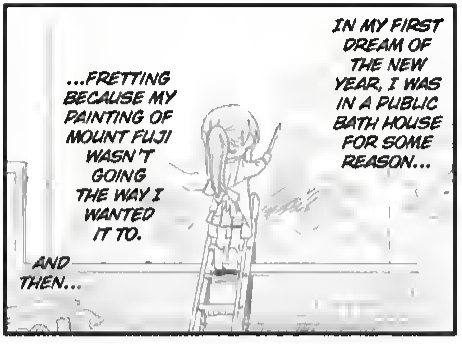
I DIDN'T SEE THIS COMING ...
I WILL!
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY FIRST DRAWING, KISARAGI!!!
A. ALL RIGHT! I LIKE THAT SPIRIT!
A MYSTERI-OUS NEW RULE..
CLAP CLAP

SUPPORT

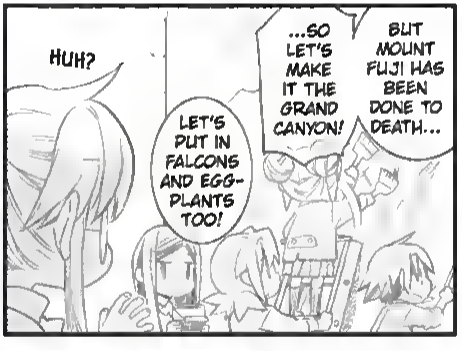



YOU CAN'T USE YOUR DESK LIKE THIS.
OH, THAT WOULD BE PER-FECT.
I HOPE IT'S ALL RIGHT TO USE THIS BOX.
WHY DON'T YOU PUT ALL OF THIS IN THAT EMPTY BOX FOR NOW?

IN THE END, NOT ONE WAS COMPLETED


IN MY FIRST DREAM OF THE NEW YEAR, I WAS IN A PUBLIC BATH HOUSE FOR SOME REASON...
...FRETTING BECAUSE MY PAINTING OF MOUNT FUJI WASN'T GOING THE WAY I WANTED IT TO.
AND THEN...

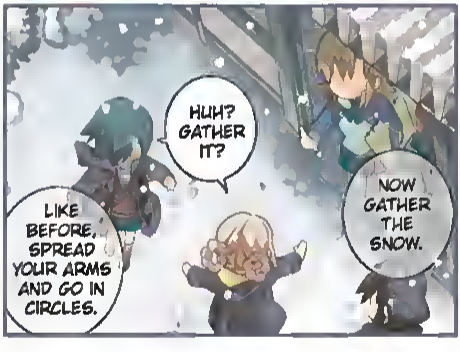
WHAT'S WRONG, KISARAGI-DONO?
THEN WE'LL HELP YOU!
WE'LL FINISH IT FAST AND THEN ALL GO HOME TOGETHER. OKAY?
WHAT, YOU'RE NOT DONE YET?

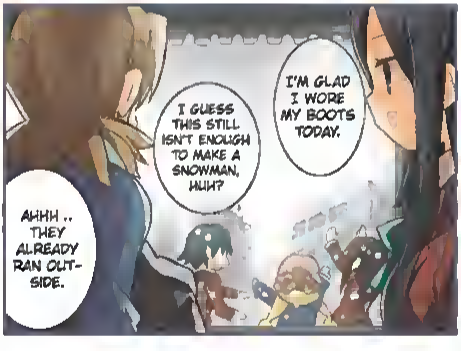


TOMOKANE-DONO, THIS LOOKS MORE LIKE A TOMATO THAN AN EGGPLANT ...
PANIC
UM... UH..
PANIC
NNH!
NNH...
WE-I, PROF, YOUR FALCONS ARE SO BLACK THAT THEY LOOK LIKE CROWS.
THIS YEAR MAY BE FULL OF DIFFICUL-TIES, JUST LIKE LAST YEAR.

WHOA... THERE WASN'T EVEN A HINT OF SNOW THIS MORNING.
YAY! IT'S SNOWING!

SNOW DANCE

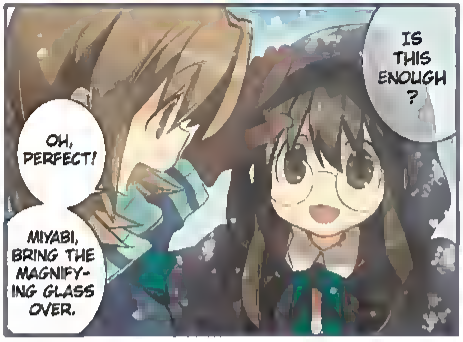

LIKE BEFORE, SPREAD YOUR ARMS AND GO IN CIRCLES.
HUH? GATHER IT?
NOW GATHER THE SNOW.

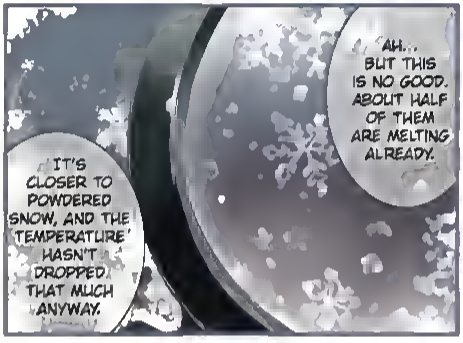

AHHH.. THEY ALREADY RAN OUT-SIDE.
I GUESS THIS STILL ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE A SNOWMAN, HUH?
I'M GLAD I WORE MY BOOTS TODAY.

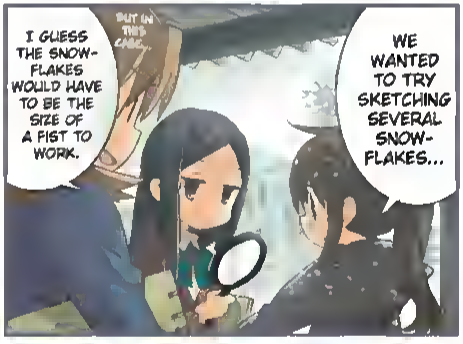
WHAT ARE WE, FLOOR MOPS!?
USE YOUR COATS TO COLLECT THE SNOW!
THAT MAKES IT EASIER TO OBSERVE THE SNOWFLAKES THAT FALL ON THE BLACK OR NAVY BLUE FABRIC

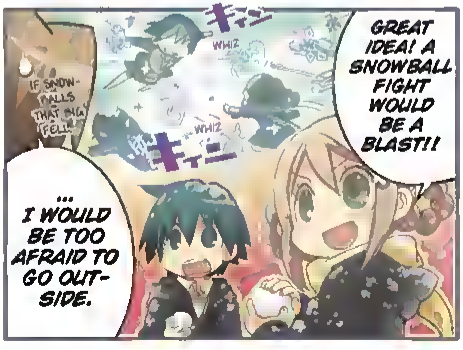
OF COURSE
YOU CAME OUT HERE JUST TO GIVE US OUR COATS?
HERE, TAKE THIS. PUT IT ON.
AH! THANK YOU!

ICE THROWING STAR



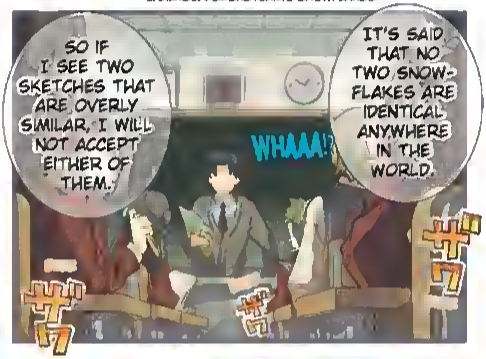

AH... BUT THIS IS NO GOOD. ABOUT HALF OF THEM ARE MELTING ALREADY.
IT'S CLOSER TO POWDERED SNOW, AND THE TEMPERATURE HASN'T DROPPED THAT MUCH ANYWAY.

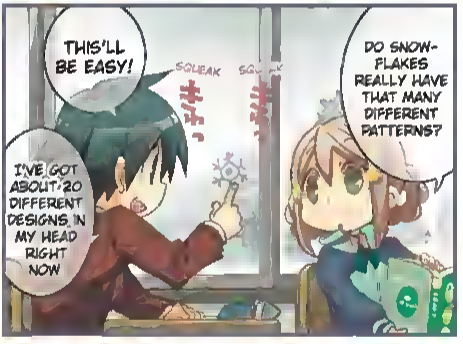


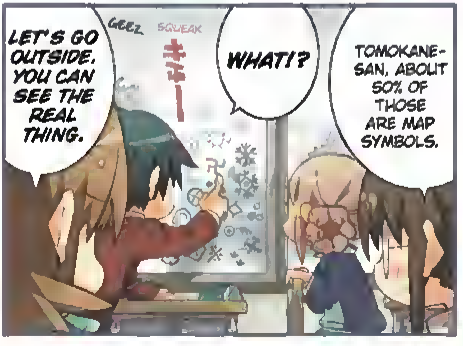


STALEMATED RIGHT OFF THE BAT

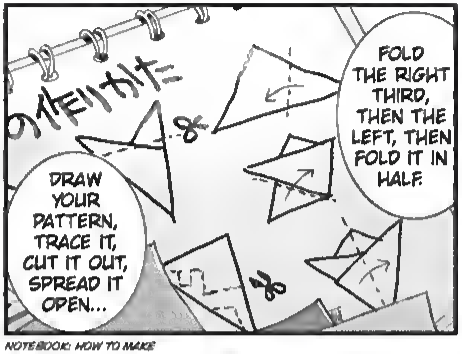
CHALKBOARD: SKETCHING SNOWFLAKES


SO IF I SEE TWO SKETCHES THAT ARE OVERLY SIMILAR, I WILL NOT ACCEPT EITHER OF THEM.
WHAAA!?
IT'S SAID THAT NO TWO SNOWFLAKES ARE IDENTICAL ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.


THIS'LL BE EASY!
SQUEAK
I'VE GOT ABOUT 20 DIFFERENT DESIGNS IN MY HEAD RIGHT NOW
DO SNOWFLAKES REALLY HAVE THAT MANY DIFFERENT PATTERNS?

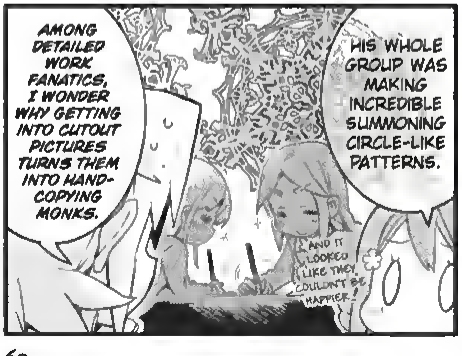


PENANCE-LIKE PLEASURE

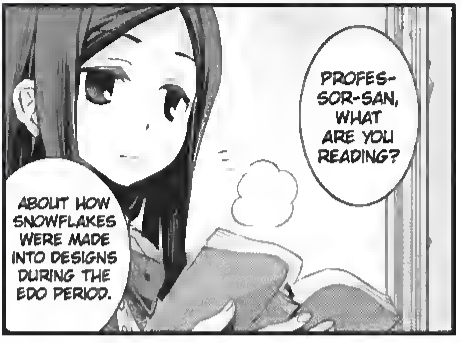


NOTEBOOK: HOW TO MAKE

...BUT I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GET ANY DEEPER INTO IT.
I THOUGHT MAKING THEM OUT OF PAPER WOULD BE EASIER THAN DRAWING, SO I WENT TO HIM TO LEARN...
HUH? WHY NOT?


AMONG DETAILED WORK FANATICS, I WONDER WHY GETTING INTO CUTOUT PICTURES TURNS THEM INTO HAND-COPYING MONKS.
HIS WHOLE GROUP WAS MAKING INCREDIBLE SUMMONING CIRCLE-LIKE PATTERNS.
AND IT LOOKED LIKE THEY COULDN'T BE HAPPIER.

SPIDER



HUH.. THERE WERE KIMONOS WITH SNOWFLAKE DESIGNS DURING THE EDO PERIOD?
I'M IMPRESSED THEY WERE ABLE TO DO SUCH INTRICATE WORK EVEN THOUGH THEY DIDN'T HAVE MICROSCOPES BACK THEN!

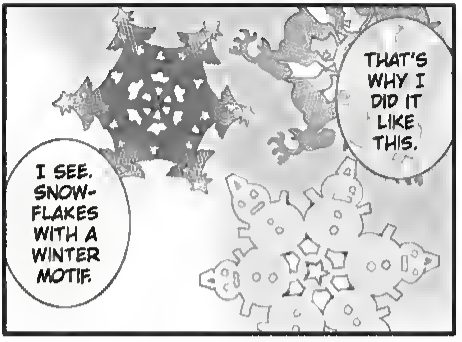
YES, I AGREE.
...SO IT FEELS KIND OF WEIRD SEEING THEM ON KIMONOS.
MY IMAGE OF SNOW DESIGNS COMES FROM SNOWY REGIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND WESTERN-STYLE CLOTHES...
LIKE LUDIQUE

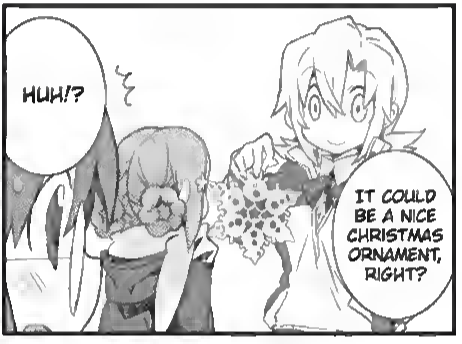
RESCUE SIGNAL

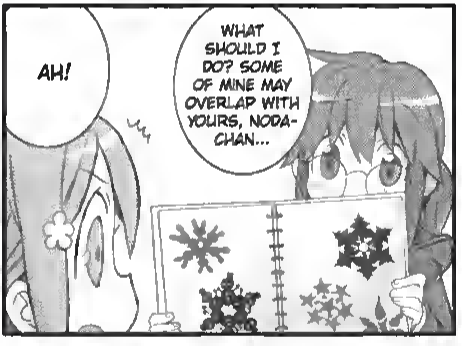
YEAH, I HAVE TO PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE ASSIGNMENT.
AH, IT'S GOTTEN COLDER.
SHOULD WE GO BACK TO THE CLASSROOM?
AH. I WANT TO WATCH THE SNOW FALL A LITTLE LONGER ...

SHE'S NOT GONNA SEND OUT A DISTRESS SIGNAL WHILE STROLLING ON CAMPUS!!
THE SIGNAL FOR BLOWING IT IS SIX TIMES IN A MINUTE, THEN ONE MINUTE OF REST, AND REPEAT.
SEE YOU LATER!

GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT

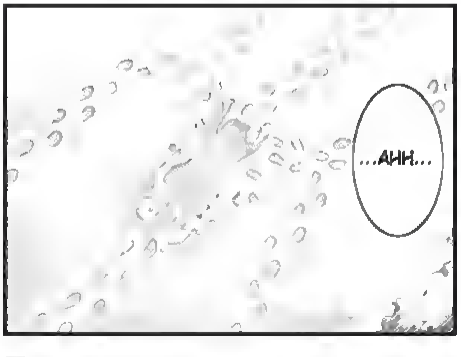




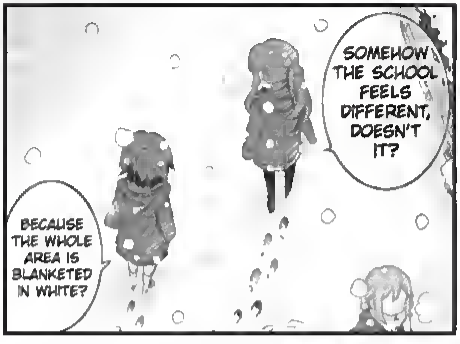


THEY'VE GOT A HOMEWORK COUNCIL MEETING GOING ON.
MY SNOWMAN HAS TWO SECTIONS AND YOURS HAS THREE. MAYBE HE WOULDN'T COUNT THAT AS A REDUNDANCY.
OKAY, I'LL LET YOU HAVE SANTA, KISARAGI-CHAN, BUT CAN I KEEP THE REINDEER?
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER

TRACE OF A FALL



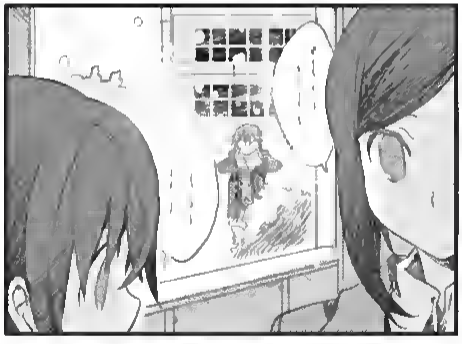
DRAWING THE LINE



YEAH. ALL I CAN HEAR...
...ARE OUR VOICES AND...
...SO THIS RELATIVE SILENCE FEELS SORT OF WEIRD.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HEAR VARIOUS SOUNDS ON CAMPUS ...
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

SFX: CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH

HUH?

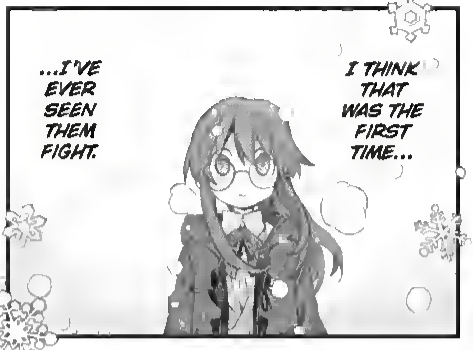


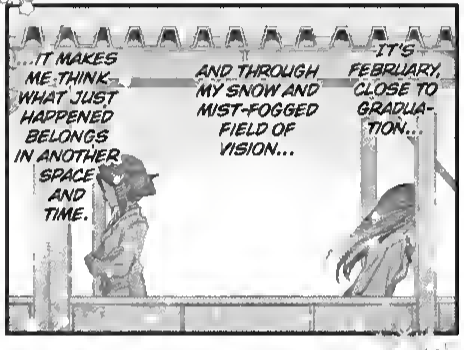
"LIKE" OPTION

IF THERE WERE ALWAYS SIX PETALS TO A FLOWER ...
..YOU COULD NEVER USE THEM FOR "HE LOVES ME, HE LOVES ME NOT!"
YEAH, IT'S ALWAYS END WITH "HE LOVES ME NOT."
OH? IN YOUR CASE...

...YOU'D BE LIKE "BUT EVERYONE LOVES ME"...
.. AND UPROOT ALL THE FLOWERS.
ONLY YOU WOULD DO THAT LAST PART, TOMOKANE!
LIKE THE WAY A MANUFAC-TURED IDOL WOULD SEE THINGS.

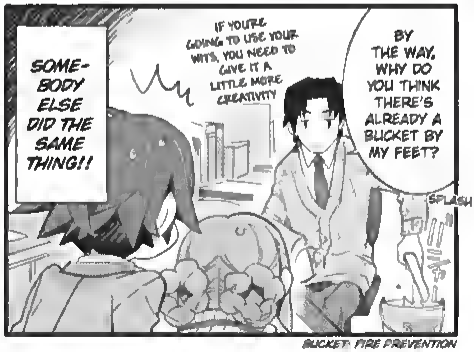
THE SPECTACLE SHROUDED IN MIST




...IT MAKES ME THINK- WHAT JUST HAPPENED BELONGS IN ANOTHER SPACE AND TIME.
AND THROUGH MY SNOW AND MIST-FOGGED FIELD OF VISION...
IT'S FEBRUARY, CLOSE TO GRADUA-TION...

WHA...?

CERTIFIED UNACCEPTABLE


SOMEBODY ELSE DID THE SAME THING!!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO USE YOUR WITS, YOU NEED TO GIVE IT A LITTLE MORE CREATIVITY
BY THE WAY, WHY DO YOU THINK THERE'S ALREADY A BUCKET BY MY FEET?
SPLASH

BUCKET: FIRE PREVENTION

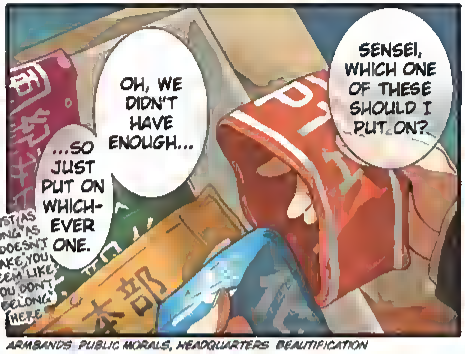
GIVE IT TO ME

I'M ASHAMED OF MYSELF.
I WONDERED WHY YOU WERE BLOWING THE WHISTLE WHEN YOU CAME TO GET US
...BUT A COLD IS THE EXPECTED OUTCOME WHEN YOU PLAY HARD AND GET SWEATY, THEN STAND LIKE A STATUE!

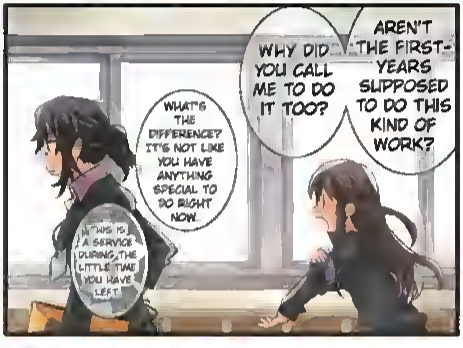
ARMBANDS: GUIDE

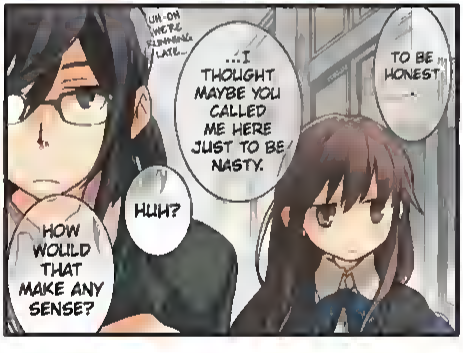
NO!
WHY WOULD I HAVE TO TAKE THE TEST OVER AGAIN?
WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU FORGET YOUR EXAM ADMISSION TICKET?
OR DO YOU WANT US TO TAKE YOU TO RECEPTION?
彩井高等学校
入学試験会場
AYANOI GAKUEN ADMIS-SION EXAM VENUE
入口

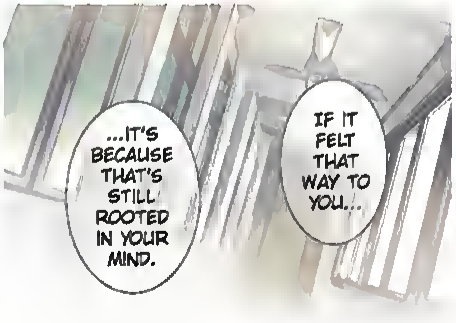
TO THE EXAM SITE


SENSEI, WHICH ONE OF THESE SHOULD I PUT ON?
OH, WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH...
...SO JUST PUT ON WHICH-EVER ONE.
JUST AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T MAKE YOU SEEM LIKE YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.

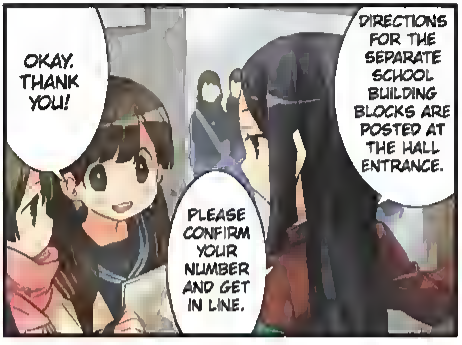
ARMBANDS: PUBLIC MORALS, HEADQUARTERS BEAUTIFICATION

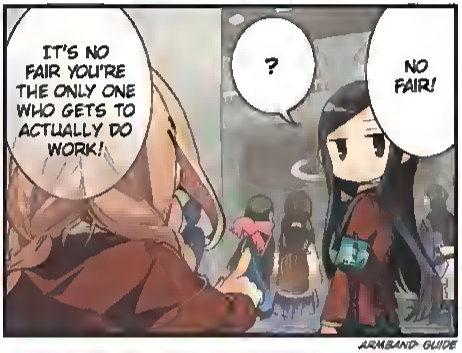

AREN'T THE FIRST-YEARS SUPPOSED TO DO THIS KIND OF WORK?
WHY DID YOU CALL ME TO DO IT TOO?
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE ANYTHING SPECIAL TO DO RIGHT NOW.
THIS IS A SERVICE DURING THE LITTLE TIME YOU HAVE LEFT.



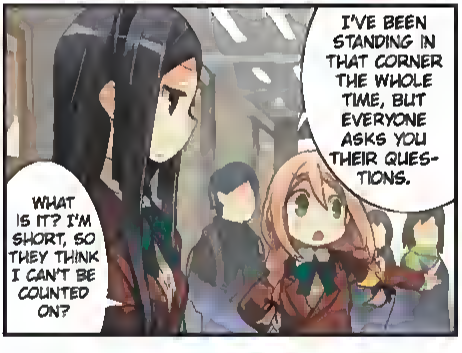


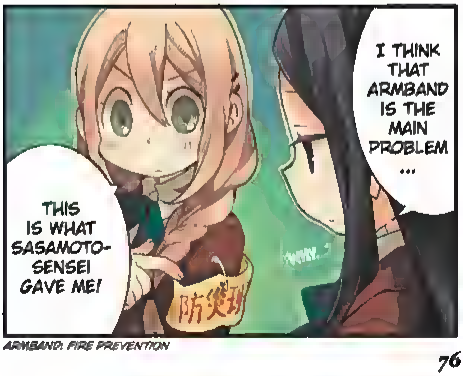
HARD TO GET CLOSE TO


DIRECTIONS FOR THE SEPARATE SCHOOL BUILDING BLOCKS ARE POSTED AT THE HALL ENTRANCE.
OKAY. THANK YOU!
PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR NUMBER AND GET IN LINE.



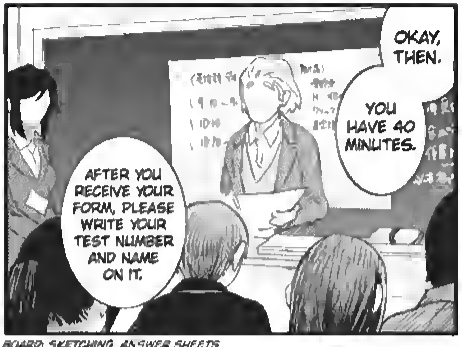
ARMBAND: GUIDE


I'VE BEEN STANDING IN THAT CORNER THE WHOLE TIME, BUT EVERYONE ASKS YOU THEIR QUES-TIONS.
WHAT IS IT? I'M SHORT, SO THEY THINK I CAN'T BE COUNTED ON?

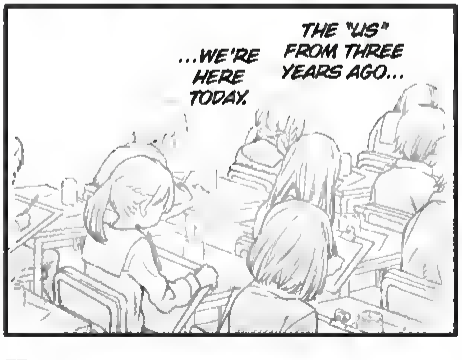


ARMBAND: FIRE PREVENTION

THE SCENE THAT DAY



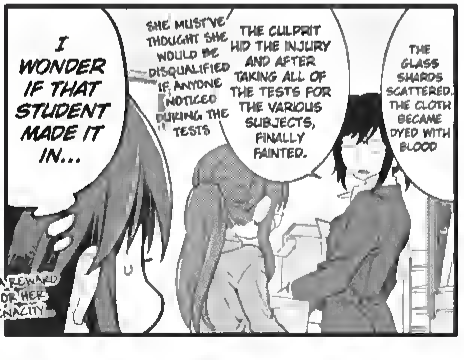
BOARD: SKETCHING ANSWER SHEETS



TENACITY

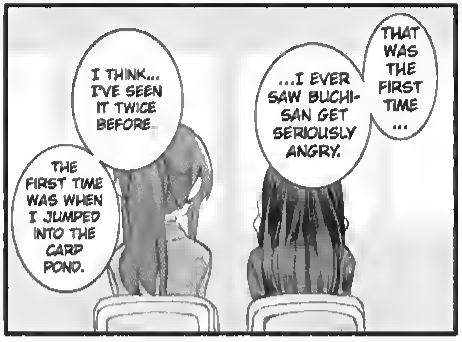
HUH— SO WE'RE MAKING THEM DRAW THIS FOR THIS YEAR'S PRACTICAL TEST..
WHEN WE DID IT, IT WAS A GLASS AND A PAPER CUP.
WE HAD TO DRAW A GLASS AND A CLOTH CROSS.
OLD CANS OF JUICE

HUH—
...I RE-MEMBER THAT!
AH! NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
WE AVOIDED ANYTHING BREAK-ABLE THIS TIME
IT WAS CHANGED AFTER LAST YEAR, WHEN A STUDENT BROKE THE GLASS AND THE TEST HAD TO BE TEMPORARILY HALTED


I WONDER IF THAT STUDENT MADE IT IN...
SHE MUST'VE THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED IF ANYONE NOTICED DURING THE TESTS
THE CULPRIT HID THE INJURY AND AFTER TAKING ALL OF THE TESTS FOR THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS, FINALLY FAINTED.
THE GLASS SHARDS SCATTERED. THE CLOTH BECAME DYED WITH BLOOD
AS A REWARD FOR HER TENACITY

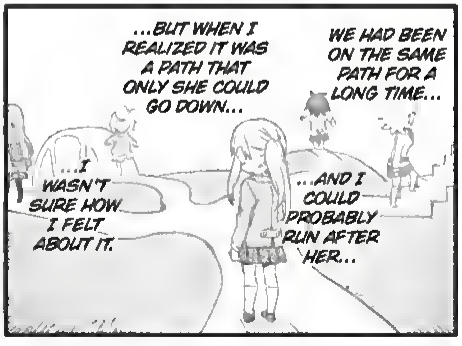
IF
LAST TIME
SORRY.
THE NEXT TIME YOU RAISE YOUR VOICES, I'M GOING TO TAKE THOSE ARMBANDS AND GAG YOU WITH THEM!
FSSSS
SSSS
PATSH
AH, OKAY. WE WILL.
WAIT HERE UNTIL THE TESTS ARE COLLECTED.
ALSO, THE EXAMINEES' BELONGINGS ARE BEING STORED IN THE ROOM NEXT DOOR ...
SO KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE TOO
HEY, NIGATSU-SAN...
THIS IS JUST A HYPO-THETI-CAL...
UH-HUH...
...SAY THERE'S A SENPAI YOU RESPECT ...
OW
COME TO THINK OF IT, MICCHA ...
MIZUBUCHI-SENPAI IS TAKING AN ART UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM TODAY.
YEAH, I HEARD.
.. AND THEY GET THE CHANCE TO DO SOME-THING.
THEY'RE GOING TO DO REALLY BIG THINGS IN THE FUTURE.
THEY WILL SHINE.
AND IF YOU GO ALONG WITH THEM ...
.....
AH—
UM...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO, NIGATSU-CHAN?
...YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING TOO.
AAH
LEAN
IT WASN'T ON PUR-POSE!!
I MEAN, YOU NOTICED ME THERE?
CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
ARE YOU THAT BOTHERED BY SEEING A LOVERS' QUARREL?

SWEET AND BITTER

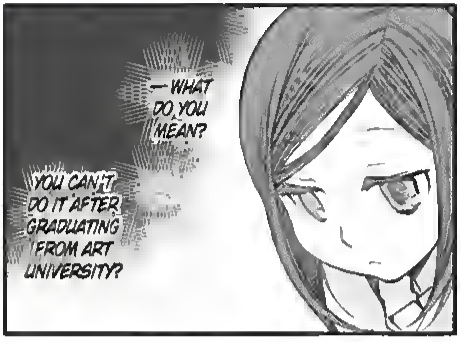

I THINK... I'VE SEEN IT TWICE BEFORE...
THE FIRST TIME WAS WHEN I JUMPED INTO THE CARP POND.
...I EVER SAW BUCHI-SAN GET SERIOUSLY ANGRY.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME ...

WHEN MICCHAN IS SERIOUSLY ANGRY...
...IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S SERIOUSLY WORRIED.
I TOOK MY DOGS WITH ME...
THE SECOND TIME WAS WHEN I RAN AWAY FROM HOME AFTER MY PARENTS WERE OPPOSED TO ME GOING TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL.

...BUT IF IT HAD BEEN A FRIEND FROM CLASS, I WOULDN'T BE SO SURE ABOUT IT.
AH, NOT THAT IT WOULDN'T MAKE ME HAPPY. THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
EVEN NOW, WHAT YOU JUST SAID—I THOUGHT IT SOUNDED INCREDIBLE JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE THE ONE SAYING IT, PRESIDENT-SAN...


...BUT WHEN I REALIZED IT WAS A PATH THAT ONLY SHE COULD GO DOWN...
WE HAD BEEN ON THE SAME PATH FOR A LONG TIME...
...I WASN'T SURE HOW I FELT ABOUT IT.
...AND I COULD PROBABLY RUN AFTER HER...

RIFT



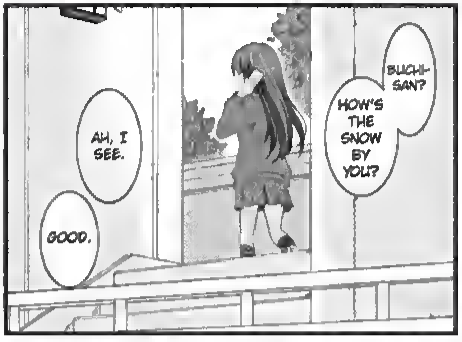
I KNOW
IT'S RECKLESS TO AIM FOR GOING ABROAD WITHOUT A TRACK RECORD AND INTRODUCTION.
I WASN'T INVITED. I BEGGED FOR IT.
THEN THAT'S EVEN MORE REASON

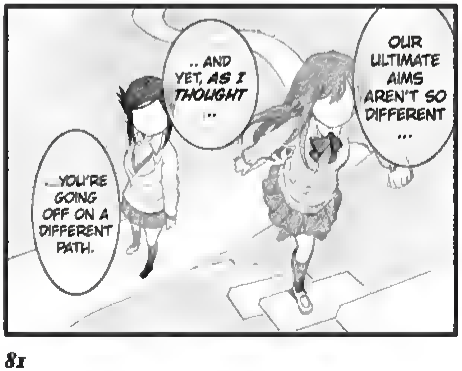
AA-SAN'S EYES...
IF I GO TO COLLEGE, MY OPTIONS WILL MOST LIKELY INCREASE ...
...BUT THIS OPPORTUNITY IS NOW OR NEVER.
IF I DON'T GRAB IT, I'LL DEFINITELY REGRET IT LATER.

...SO I WAS PROBABLY MAKING THAT FACE.
IN THE END, I DIDN'T TURN IN THE APPLICATION FORM.
I'M SORRY...
I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL YOU, BUCHI-SAN.
...AVOIDED ME MORE AND MORE...

PATH
MICA
I COULDN'T TELL HER UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE ...
...BECAUSE SOMEWHERE INSIDE ME, I HAD IN-SURANCE.
... YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT ME.
I'M THE SAME AS YOU GUYS ...
...IT LOOKED TO ME LIKE MY OWN PATH WAS SHINING BRIGHT.
LOOKING AT THE EXAMINEES REMINDED ME.
COME TO THINK OF IT, BACK THEN...
LISTEN, AWARA.
IF YOU WANT TO TELL YOURSELF THAT IT'S DESTINY, GO RIGHT AHEAD...
...BUT DON'T USE THAT AS YOUR REASON.
I KIND OF THINK ...
...MIC-CHAN IS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
...AND REALLY ENVIOUS OF YOU, PRESIDENT-SAN...
FOR JUST ONE PERIOD OF TIME, OUR LIVES WILL OVERLAP.
SO
IN THE END, THOUGH, IT'S NOT MY LIFE. IT'S NOT SHISHOU'S LIFE EITHER.
...THINK ABOUT IT VERY CAREFULLY AND DON'T DECIDE UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.
EVEN IF MIZUBUCHI-SENPAI OR I...
...WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T FLY WITH NO HESITATION LIKE YOU, PRESIDENT-SAN.
...HAD THE SAME OPPORTU-NITY...
.. THE CHOICES YOU MAKE.
BECAUSE YOU ARE RESPON-SIBLE FOR.
TO ME, AT LEAST, THE PATH YOU'RE ON...
...LOOKS BRILLIANT AS WELL, PRESIDENT-SAN.

SENSING A FORK IN THE ROAD



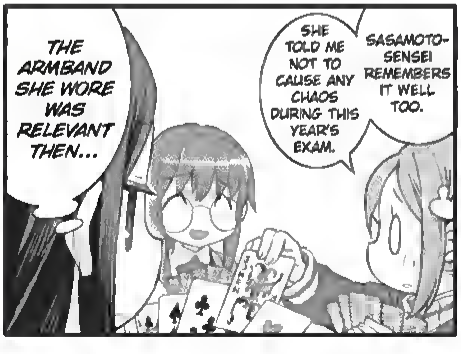


WITH A TREE OR SPONGE

BUT THAT'S OKAY FOR RIGHT NOW.
...HEY, SENSE! ...
WHEN YOU ONLY ASKED ME TO HELP YOU TODAY...
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T TURN BACK, YOU CAN SEE WHAT'S AHEAD

THE GIRL WHO INVITED DISASTER

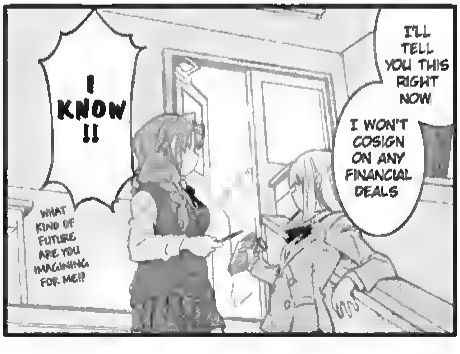
WHAT ARE YOU INSINUATING?
BUT TO BE HONEST, WHEN THAT HAPPENED, IT KIND OF EASED MY NERVES A BIT.
I BET IT WAS YOU, RIGHT, KISARAGI?
OH YEAH...
AH.
AT LAST YEAR'S PRACTICAL EXAM, SOMEBODY CAUSED A COMMOTION BY BREAKING A GLASS, RIGHT?


THE ARMBAND SHE WORE WAS RELEVANT THEN...
SHE TOLD ME NOT TO CAUSE ANY CHAOS DURING THIS YEAR'S EXAM.
SASAMOTO-SENSEI REMEMBERS IT WELL TOO.

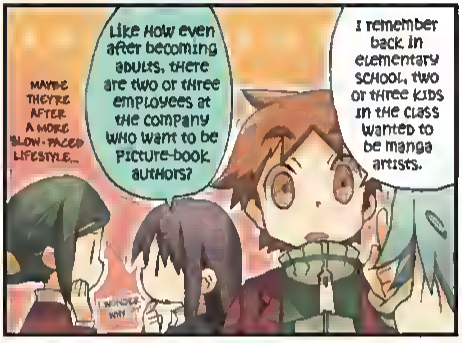
DIFFICULT PATH

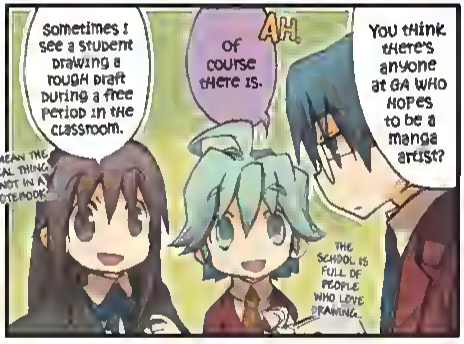
THAT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR.
THAT KIND OF IRRITATED ME.
AND THAT YOU WERE TRYING TO ENCOURAGE ME WHEN I WAS IN DOUBT.
HONESTLY, I KIND OF SENSED IT BEFORE YOU TOLD ME.

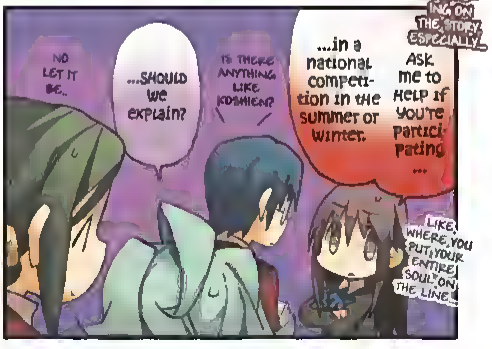
BOOK: FRENCH



That's why those jobs attract such genuinely motivated people..
ALL OF THEM!
The titles alone usually express exactly what the job entails.
It's a field in which you're most closely connected to popular entertainment.
AND MUSIC
LIKE WITH MANGA AND ANIME


MAYBE THEY'RE AFTER A MORE SLOW-PACED LIFESTYLE...
Like how even after becoming adults, there are two or three employees at the company who want to be picture-book authors?
I remember back in elementary school, two or three kids in the class wanted to be manga artists.
I WONDER WHY


Sometimes I see a student drawing a rough draft during a free period in the classroom.
AH.
Of course there is.
You think there's anyone at GA who hopes to be a manga artist?
I MEAN THE REAL THING, NOT IN A NOTEBOOK
THE SCHOOL IS FULL OF PEOPLE WHO LOVE DRAWING.

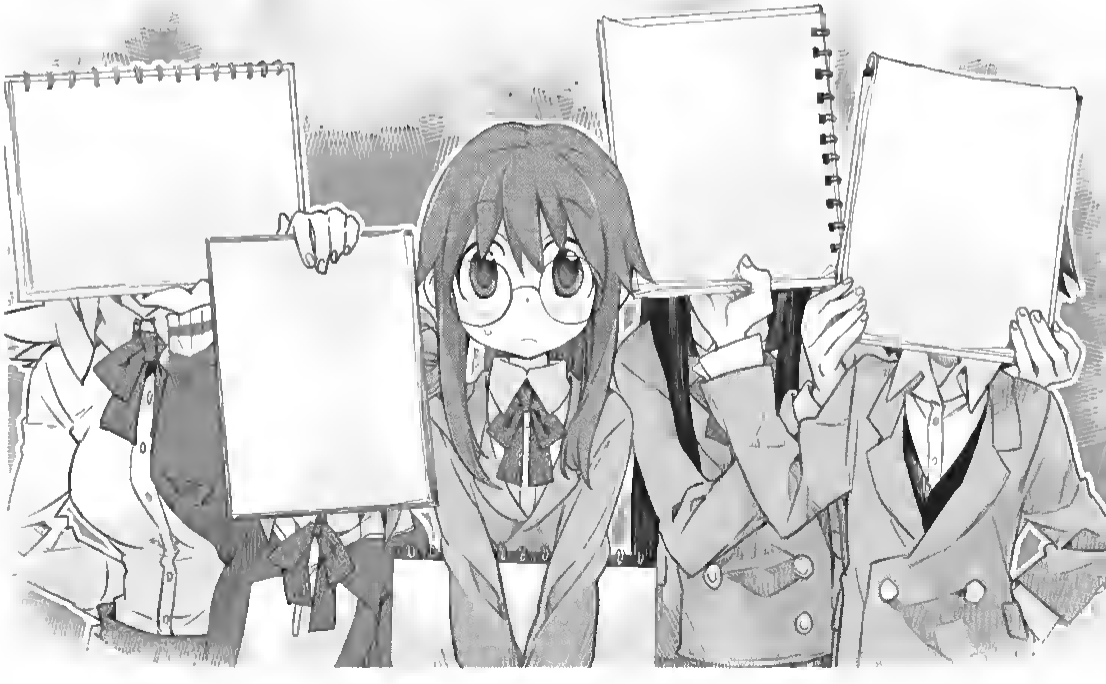

DEPENDING ON THE STORY, ESPECIALLY...
NO LET IT BE..
...SHOULD we explain?
IS THERE ANYTHING LIKE KOSHIEN?
...in a national competition in the summer or winter.
Ask me to help if you're participating...
LIKE, WHERE YOU PUT YOUR ENTIRE SOUL ON THE LINE.

CREATOR
OCCUPATION IN WHICH THE PERSON IS ARTISTICALLY INSPIRED TO INDEPENDENTLY EXPRESS AND CREATE ARTISTIC WORKS IN THE FIELDS OF LITERATURE, PICTURES, IMAGES, AND SO ON. IN MANY CASES, THE CREATOR USES A UNIQUE OCCUPATIONAL TITLE.
RELATED OCCUPATIONS
· MANGA ARTIST · FILMMAKER · SCREENWRITER · CHILDREN'S WRITER · ILLUSTRATOR · ANIMATOR · ART DIRECTOR · ETC. ·

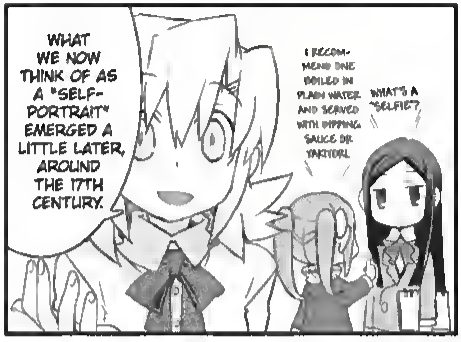
LOW TECHNOLOGY

AS THE FOOTSTEPS OF SPRING GOT CLOSER...
AH...
WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS ASSIGN-MENT NOW...?
...WE WERE BUSY WITH OUR LAST ASSIGN-MENT OF OUR FIRST YEAR.
BUT I'M SURE YOU'RE FINE WITH IT, NODA.
YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING THIS KIND OF THING.
THAT'S DIGITAL.
AND ALSO NOTEBOOK SCRIBBLINGS, BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT.

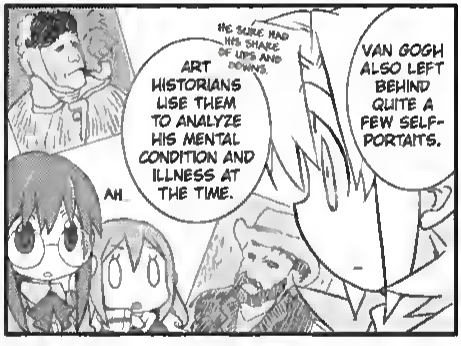
I DID IT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TOO...WELL, IT'S KIND OF A PUBLIC EXECUTION, YOU KNOW?
WELL, YEAH. IT BASICALLY EXPOSES TWO OF MY COM-PLEXES IN ONE PICTURE.
WHEN IT COMES TO DRAWING ONE PICTURE, I CAN'T DECIDE.
IT'S AN "ANALOG SELFIE."
WE HAVE TO DO A SELF-POR-TRAIT.



WE WHO ARE WITHOUT CONFIDENCE

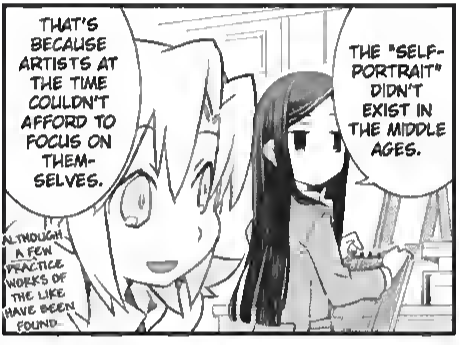

WHAT WE NOW THINK OF AS A "SELF-PORTRAIT" EMERGED A LITTLE LATER, AROUND THE 17TH CENTURY.
I RECOMMEND ONE BOILED IN PLAIN WATER AND SERVED WITH DIPPING SAUCE OR VINEGAR.
WHAT'S A "SELFIE"?

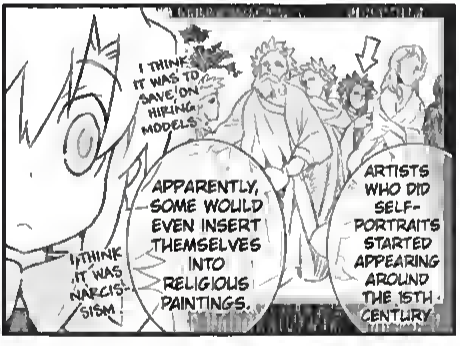
WE'RE TOLD THAT REMBRANDT ESTABLISHED THE STYLE.
WHO'S THAT AGAIN?
HE MADE LIGHTING COOL.
HE LEFT AROUND 60 SELF-PORTRAITS OVER A 40-YEAR PERIOD THAT EVOKE REAL HUMAN EMOTIONS AND A FEELING OF BEING ALIVE
AND ALL OF THEM WERE OIL PAINTINGS...


VAN GOGH ALSO LEFT BEHIND QUITE A FEW SELF-PORTAITS.
HE SURE HAD HIS SHARE OF UPS AND DOWNS.
ART HISTORIANS USE THEM TO ANALYZE HIS MENTAL CONDITION AND ILLNESS AT THE TIME.
AH...

LEAVE IT TO HER TO REGALE US WITH THE DARK SIDE OF HISTORY.
I'M EVEN MORE SCARED THAN EMBARRASSED AT THE THOUGHT OF PEOPLE COOLLY READING OVER MY DIARY IN THE FUTURE.
THIS TIME, ESPE-CIALLY...
THIS PARADE OF NEGATIV-ITY JUST WON'T STOP...

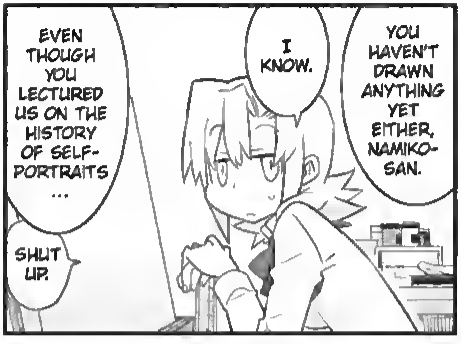
A POPULAR GENRE IS MYTHOLOGY


THE "SELF-PORTRAIT" DIDN'T EXIST IN THE MIDDLE AGES.
THAT'S BECAUSE ARTISTS AT THE TIME COULDN'T AFFORD TO FOCUS ON THEM-SELVES.
ALTHOUGH A FEW PRACTICE WORKS OF THE LIKE HAVE BEEN FOUND


ARTISTS WHO DID SELF-PORTRAITS STARTED APPEARING AROUND THE 15TH CENTURY
I THINK IT WAS TO SAVE ON HIRING MODELS
APPARENTLY, SOME WOULD EVEN INSERT THEMSELVES INTO RELIGIOUS PAINTINGS.
I THINK IT WAS NARCIS-SISM

THEN IT WAS LIKE AN ANALOG COSPLAY PHOTO?
THEY WERE 600 YEARS AHEAD OF THEIR TIME
CAN WE GET AWAY FROM THE SELFIE MIND-SET ALREADY?
OH—

THE WALL THAT MANY PEOPLE ARE EXPERIENCING

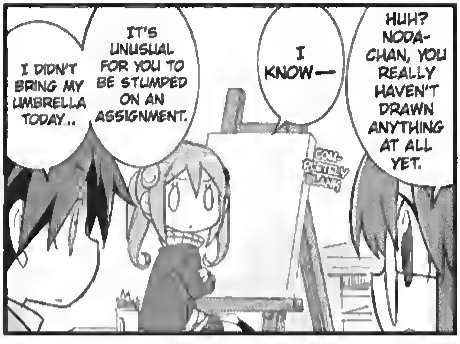

EVEN THOUGH YOU LECTURED US ON THE HISTORY OF SELF-PORTRAITS ...
I KNOW.
YOU HAVEN'T DRAWN ANYTHING YET EITHER, NAMIKO-SAN.
SHUT UP.

PLEASE DON'T TALK ABOUT SOMEONE'S INCLINATION LIKE IT'S A SCHOOL SUBJECT.
YOU WERE GONNA ENROLL IN THE TYPICAL KISARAGI COURSE, HUH?
THEN...
YEAH, AT FIRST I WAS GOING TO DO A PENCIL SKETCH OR WATERCOLOR PAINTING...

SO WHAT?
I COULD ONLY DRAW MYSELF WITH NO EXPRESSION.
NOT HAPPENING...
I EVEN THOUGHT OF DOING IT WHILE LOOKING IN A MIRROR LIKE THIS, BUT THAT'S JUST WAY TOO EMBARRASSING ..

POSTER: DIAL 110 IMMEDIATELY IF YOU KNOW THIS PERSON
HUH!?
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL...?
THEN I'D FEEL COMPELLED TO FINISH IT OFF AS A WANTED POSTER OR A COURTROOM TRIAL SKETCH...

A SAFE AND SECURE BRIDGE


I DIDN'T BRING MY UMBRELLA TODAY..
IT'S UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO BE STUMPED ON AN ASSIGNMENT.
I KNOW—
HUH? NODA-CHAN, YOU REALLY HAVEN'T DRAWN ANYTHING AT ALL YET.

IT'S THE GREATEST MOTIF IN ALL OF THE AGES..
WELL, THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT...
I THOUGHT THIS WOULD'VE BEEN RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY.
...BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I WANT TO DRAW SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM EVERYONE ELSE.

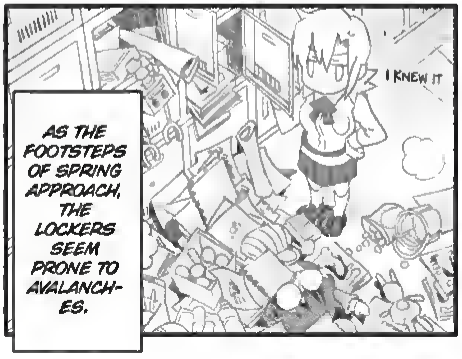
THUNK
DIFFERENT FROM THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO COVERS UP HER EMBARRASSMENT AT HAVING TO DO A SELF-PORTRAIT BY DRAWING SOMETHING RANDOMLY ABSTRACT
UNGH ...
LIKE IT'S AN ALBUM COVER...

THUNK
OR THE TYPE THAT DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE CREATIVE IDEA, SO IN THE END DRAWS AN EASY, PHOTO-REALISTIC PORTRAIT.
NODA-CHAN!
THAT HURTS!! THAT REALLY HURTS!!
THUNK
IT'S REALLY COMMON, SO I'M NOT INTERESTED IN DRAWING LIKE THAT.

ONE YEAR'S WORTH OF ACCUMULATION

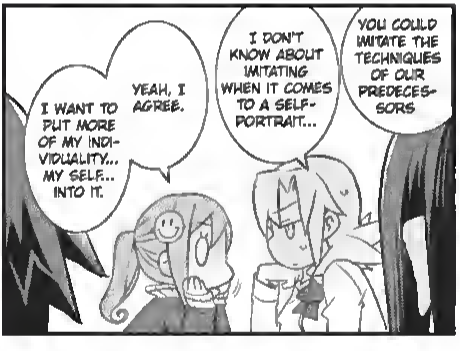
I HAVE A FEELING IF I USE THE SUPPLIES I'M USED TO, I'LL GET STUCK IN A RUT.
SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY SOME-THING NEW.
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU GET THEM FOR ME?
SURE

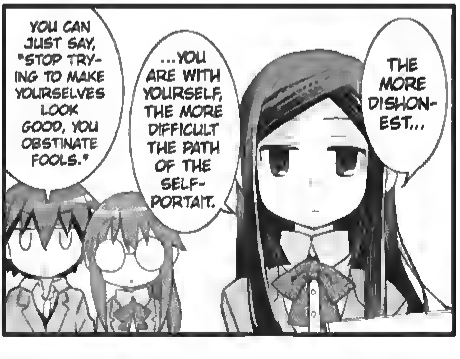
YOU'RE FREE TO USE MY GOUACHE AND COLOR SPRAY TOO!
MY LOCKER'S ALREADY OPEN
YOU CAN USE MY MARKER SET AND ACRYLIC MEDIUMS TOO!
HERE'S MY KEY
.....



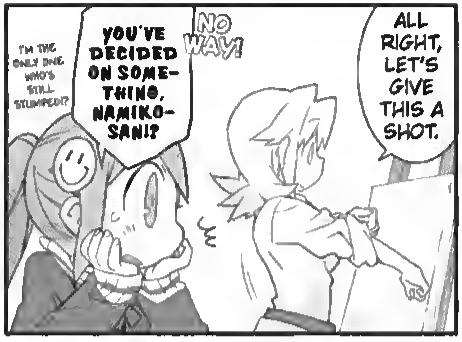
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE WHO'S ONE STEP AHEAD

THIS NORMAL PERSON GETS ANXIOUS LIKE A NORMAL PERSON.
DON'T INVITE ME
NAMIKO-SAN, YOU'RE A NORMAL PERSON TOO, SO DON'T FIGHT IT.
LET'S TAKE THE TOMOKANE COURSE TOGETHER!


I WANT TO PUT MORE OF MY INDI-VIDUALITY... MY SELF... INTO IT.
YEAH, I AGREE.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT IMITATING WHEN IT COMES TO A SELF-PORTRAIT...
YOU COULD IMITATE THE TECHNIQUES OF OUR PREDECES-SORS


YOU CAN JUST SAY, "STOP TRY-ING TO MAKE YOURSELVES LOOK GOOD, YOU OBSTINATE FOOLS."
...YOU ARE WITH YOURSELF, THE MORE DIFFICULT THE PATH OF THE SELF-PORTAIT.
THE MORE DISHON-EST...

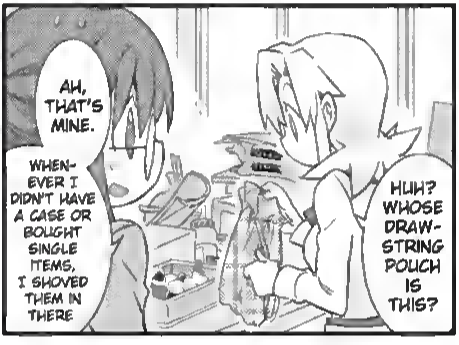
NOT SOMETHING SOMEONE WHO WAS BORN IN THE HEISEI PERIOD DOES

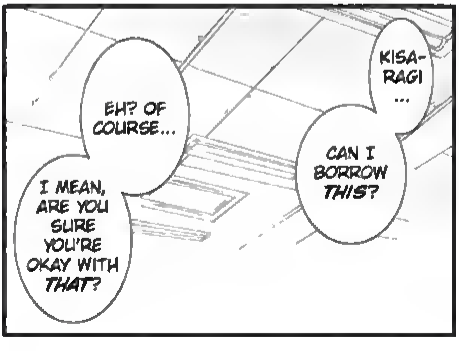


AFTER ALL, A PERSON COULD DIE IF THEY LOSE A THIRD OF THEIR BLOOD!
I THINK YOU'D DIE WITHOUT YOUR WORLDLY THOUGHTS.
SOMEBODY TAKE AWAY MY WORLDLY THOUGHTS! CLEAR MY MIND!!

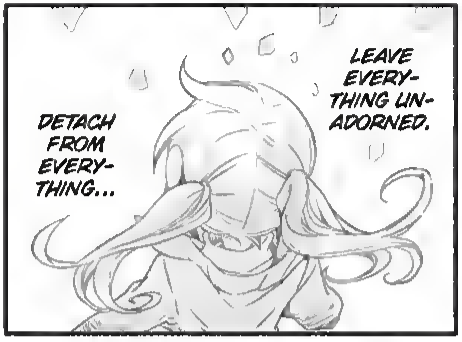
FIRST INSPIRATION

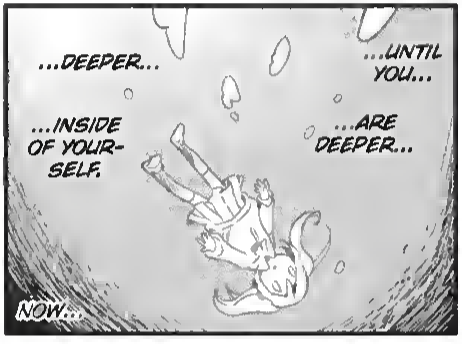
LABEL. MINE


WHENEVER I DIDN'T HAVE A CASE OR BOUGHT SINGLE ITEMS, I SHOVED THEM IN THERE
AH, THAT'S MINE.
HUH? WHOSE DRAW-STRING POUCH IS THIS?

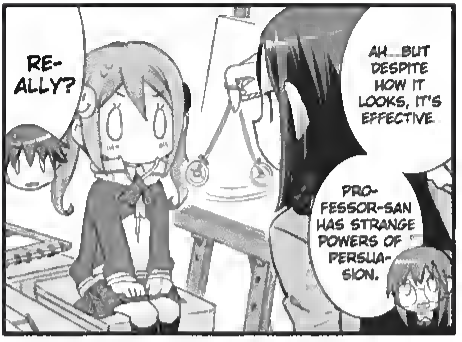


"EUREKA"





STRENGTH OF WILL WELLS UP

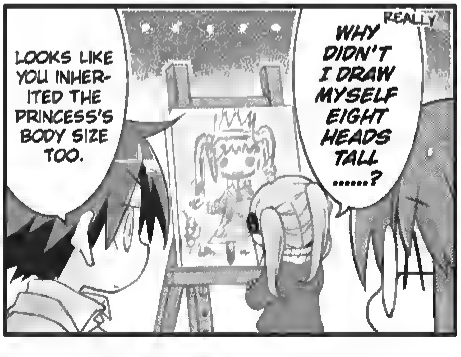


IT'LL BE OKAY.
HEY, SHE'S STARTING TO GIVE SOME WEIRD CON-FESSION...
AND I'M INCREASINGLY NERVOUS ABOUT THE SIZE OF MY BUST...
I-I LIED TO MY RELATIVES THAT I'M 3.9 CM TALLER THAN I REAL-LY AM

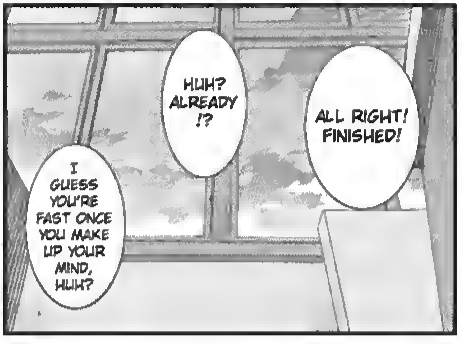
I LACKED A SENSE OF DANGER WHEN I WAS YOUNG

I'M NOT A PRINCESS IN REALITY...
...I BECAME THE "ME" I WANTED TO BE BACK THEN, AND THIS IS IT!
...BUT BY GETTING CUTER AND BETTER AT DRAWING...

BUT THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO COMPLAIN ABOUT TO MY YOUNGER SELF.
I LOVE THAT PART OF YOU, NODA-CHAN.
THE PART OF YOU THAT'S JUST SO "NODA-CHAN."

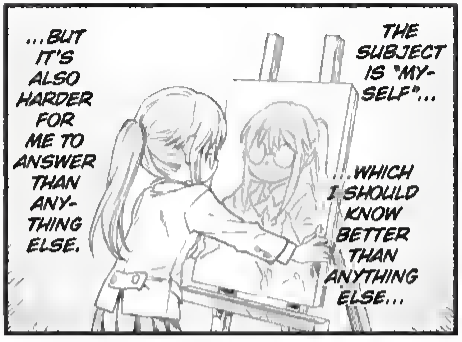


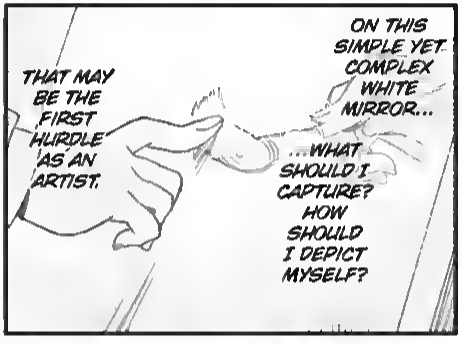
THE AREA OF GROWTH THAT CAN'T BE SEEN

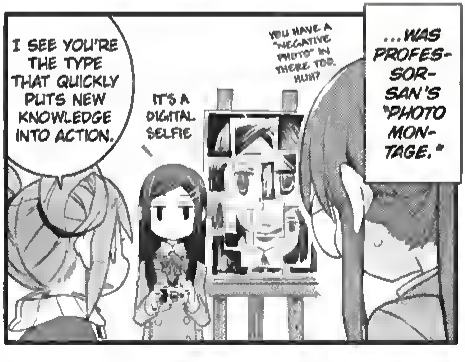


I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!!
I'M THE SAME WAY! LIKE, WITH ANIME CHARACTERS I USED TO DRAW AS A KID!
...I ACTUALLY CAN'T DRAW IT LIKE I DID BACK THEN.
BUT I'VE IMPROVED SO MUCH SINCE THEN, AND NOW...
EXCUSE ME, ARTISTS, YOU'RE NOT HERE TO FIND COMMON GROUND!

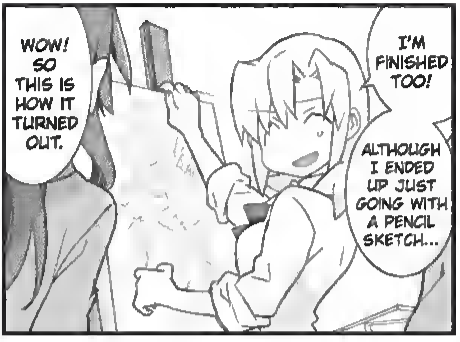
MAKING A (DARK) SELFIE LOOK COOL


...BUT IT'S ALSO HARDER FOR ME TO ANSWER THAN ANY-THING ELSE.
THE SUBJECT IS "MY-SELF"...
...WHICH I SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYTHING ELSE...


THAT MAY BE THE FIRST HURDLE AS AN ARTIST.
ON THIS SIMPLE YET COMPLEX WHITE MIRROR...
...WHAT SHOULD I CAPTURE? HOW SHOULD I DEPICT MYSELF?


I SEE YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT QUICKLY PUTS NEW KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION.
IT'S A DIGITAL SELFIE
YOU HAVE A "NEGATIVE PHOTO" IN THERE TOO, HUH?
...WAS PROFES-SOR-SAN'S "PHOTO MON-TAGE."

ANALOG APP

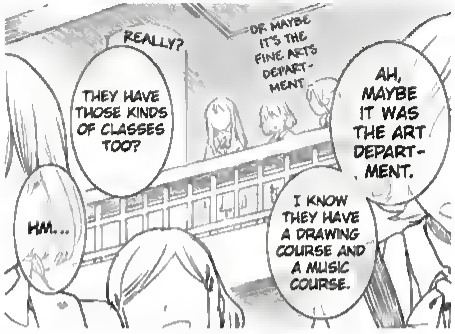


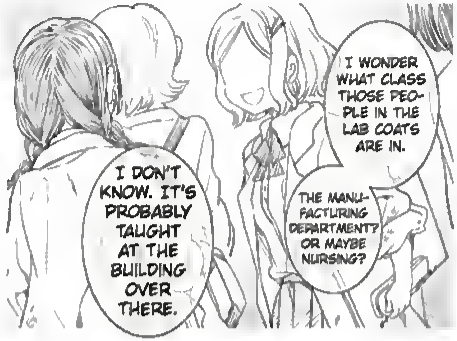
SHE USED THE COLORED PENCILS SHE BORROWED FROM YOU, KISARAGI.
IT LOOKS LIKE POP ART, DOESN'T IT?
A LITTLE
AH! THE LINES ARE SO COLOR-FUL!
HOW DID YOU DO THIS!?

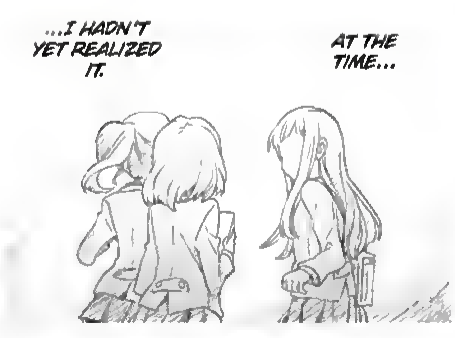
SHUT UP. IT'S FINE.
...BUT ISN'T IT TOO REFINED FOR YOU, NAMIKO-SAN?
CERTAINLY, YOU'VE AVOIDED HAVING TO MAKE A WANTED POSTER OUT OF IT...
I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS...

HEE HEE
...ISN'T IT NORMAL TO WANT TO MAKE MY "BEST VERSION" OF ME?
IF WE'RE DOING "SELFIES," INSTEAD OF PRESENTING MYSELF AS I AM...
AFTER ALL...

IN THE BEGINNING

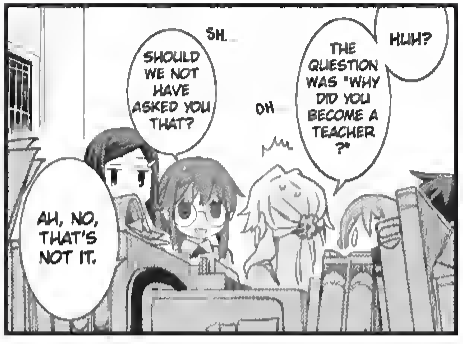

HM...
THEY HAVE THOSE KINDS OF CLASSES TOO?
REALLY?
I KNOW THEY HAVE A DRAWING COURSE AND A MUSIC COURSE.
OR MAYBE IT'S THE FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT.
AH, MAYBE IT WAS THE ART DEPARTMENT.


I DON'T KNOW. IT'S PROBABLY TAUGHT AT THE BUILDING OVER THERE.
I WONDER WHAT CLASS THOSE PEOPLE IN THE LAB COATS ARE IN.
THE MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT? OR MAYBE NURSING?



...WOULD BECOME ENCOURAGEMENT FOR MY OWN FUTURE PLANS...
I KNOW, RIGHT?
TRUE, IT MAY BE THE IFFIEST DEPARTMENT OF ALL.
AH... TO THINK THAT MY FRIEND'S WORDS THEN...

THE PEOPLE I LOVE

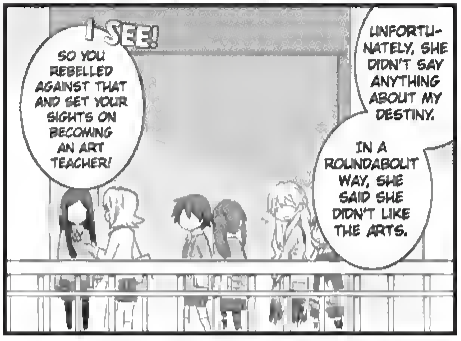


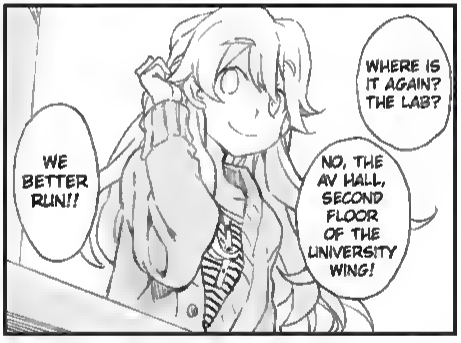
LOOKS LIKE YOUR LEADING QUESTION LED YOU NOWHERE. TOO BAD.
OH WHAT ELSE..?
AND I'LL NEVER FORGET THE SHOCK I FELT WHEN I FIRST SAW A ROCKWELL PAINTING IN A MIDDLE SCHOOL TEXTBOOK.
GOOD QUESTION!
I KNOW THIS IS CLICHÉD, BUT LAURENCIN AND KLIMT...
YOU EVEN GOT HIM RIGHT IN HER LINE OF SIGHT TOO.
TCH

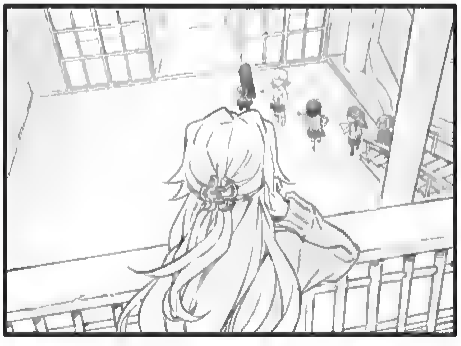
24-YEAR-OLD WOMAN ON HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

SASAMOTO-SENSEI SAID SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING A STABLE INCOME.
SOTOMA-SENSEI TALKED ABOUT "GOING WITH THE FLOW."
LET'S ASK USAMI-SENSEI TOO!
AH!

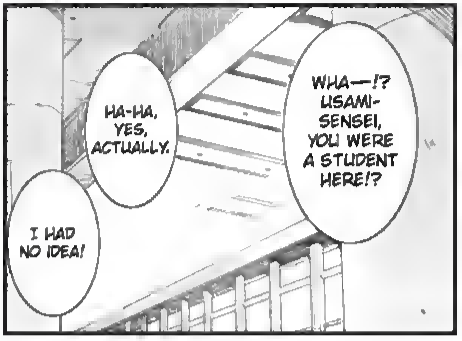
REFRAIN


I SEE!
SO YOU REBELLED AGAINST THAT AND SET YOUR SIGHTS ON BECOMING AN ART TEACHER!
UNFORTUNATELY, SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MY DESTINY.
IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY, SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T LIKE THE ARTS.

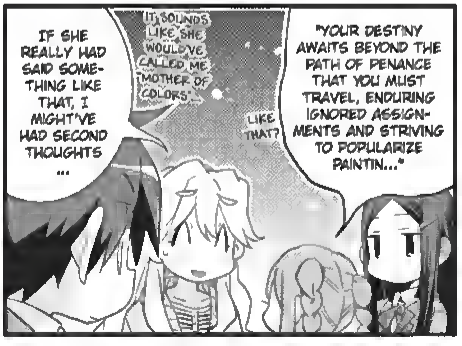




A VERY LONG LINE IN SHINJUKU RIGHT NOW



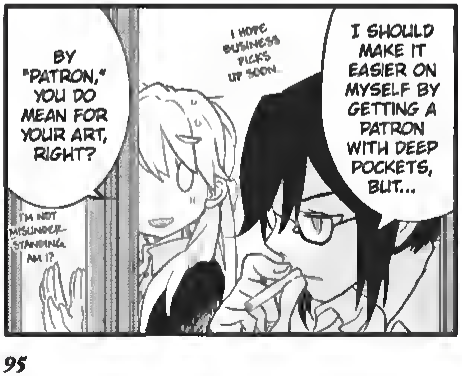
I WAS IN THE GENERAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, NOT FINE ARTS.
NO.
DID KOSHINO-SENSEI CRITICIZE YOUR WORK?
THE INFORMATION CLASS...
WAS GA LIKE THIS BACK THEN?


IF SHE REALLY HAD SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I MIGHT'VE HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ...
IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE WOULD'VE CALLED ME "MOTHER OF COLORS."
LIKE THAT?
"YOUR DESTINY AWAITS BEYOND THE PATH OF PENANCE THAT YOU MUST TRAVEL, ENDURING IGNORED ASSIGNMENTS AND STRIVING TO POPULARIZE PAINTIN..."

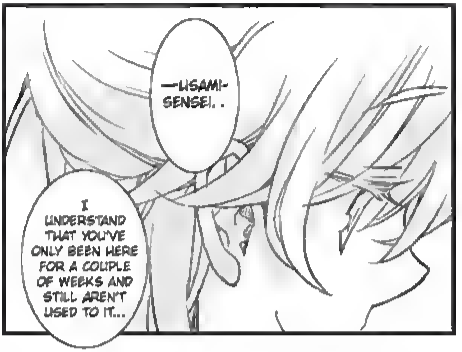
NO, NOT A HOSTESS

I'M OVER-COME BY MY EMOTIONS...
I KNOW... I KNOW, BUT...
IT MAKES THE PERSON GIVING YOU ADVICE FEEL REALLY UNCOMFORT-ABLE
LIKE SOTOMA-SENSEI...
BLOW
MAYBE YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR TENDENCY TO CRY EVERY TIME SOMETHING COMES UP

IF YOU'VE GOT THE DESIRE TO TEACH, THEN BELIEVE IN YOURSELF
YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS QUICK TO COME TO CONCLU-SIONS!
... MAYBE I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT TO BE A TEACHER.


I'M NOT MISUNDER-STANDING, AM I?
BY "PATRON," YOU DO MEAN FOR YOUR ART, RIGHT?
I HOPE BUSINESS PICKS UP SOON.
I SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER ON MYSELF BY GETTING A PATRON WITH DEEP POCKETS, BUT...

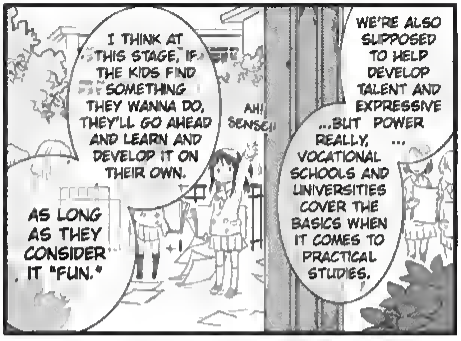
TWO VOLUMES, 99 PAGES



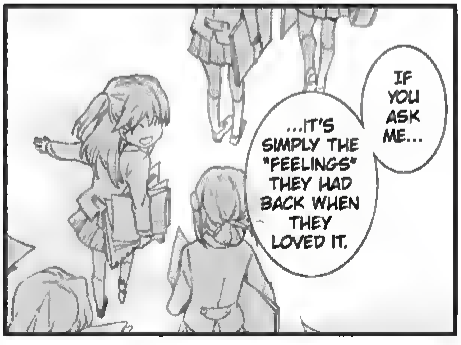
ARE YOU CHEWING OUT USAME-SENSEI AGAIN?
OH, WHAT'S THIS?
I'M SORRY ...
— BUT IF YOU DON'T START ACTING LIKE YOU'RE A TEACHER..
...IT SETS A BAD EXAMPLE FOR THE STU-DENTS

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!
AH! YOU'RE FOISTING HER OFF ON ME!?
EXCUSE ME.
I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU, SASAMOTO-SENSEI
I STEPPED ON A LAND MINE!?
SORROWFUL
WHEN I INTRODUCED MYSELF TWO WEEKS AGO, I FUMBLED MY WORDS AND IT JUST KIND OF STUCK ...
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

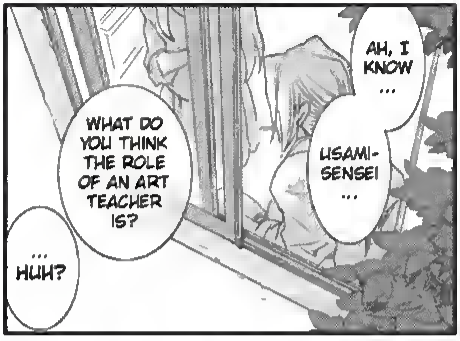
MÖBIUS STRIP

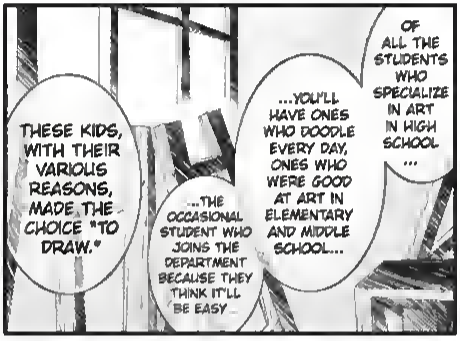

I THINK AT THIS STAGE, IF THE KIDS FIND SOMETHING THEY WANNA DO, THEY'LL GO AHEAD AND LEARN AND DEVELOP IT ON THEIR OWN.
AS LONG AS THEY CONSIDER IT "FUN."
WE'RE ALSO SUPPOSED TO HELP DEVELOP TALENT AND EXPRESSIVE POWER ...
...BUT REALLY, VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES COVER THE BASICS WHEN IT COMES TO PRACTICAL STUDIES.

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WHAT BECOMES THE ROOT OF THEIR SUPPORT?
WHEN DRAWING OR PAINTING BECOMES A COMPETITION OR A WORK ASSIGNMENT OR A POSSIBLE CAREER PATH...
...SOONER OR LATER, THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN THEY FEEL DISCOURAGED AND WANT TO GIVE UP BECAUSE OF THE WALL BETWEEN REALITY AND THEIR IDEAL



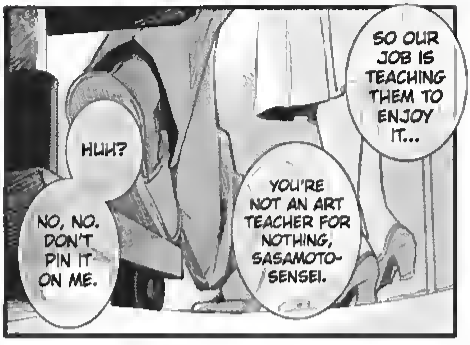
HOOK




OF ALL THE STUDENTS WHO SPECIALIZE IN ART IN HIGH SCHOOL ...
...YOU'LL HAVE ONES WHO DOODLE EVERY DAY, ONES WHO WERE GOOD AT ART IN ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL...
...THE OCCASIONAL STUDENT WHO JOINS THE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE THEY THINK IT'LL BE EASY
THESE KIDS, WITH THEIR VARIOUS REASONS, MADE THE CHOICE "TO DRAW."

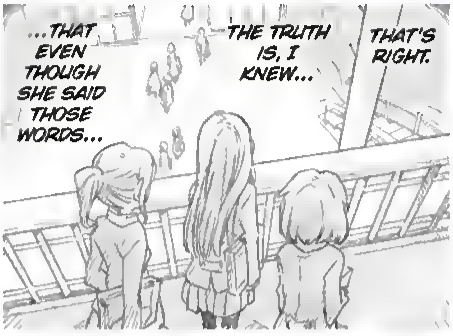
SO OUR JOB IS TO ENCOURAGE ...
...THEIR BUDDING INTEREST IN "ART."
IF THEY ALREADY LIKE IT OR ENJOY IT...
...OUR JOB IS TO TURN THOSE FEELINGS INTO SOMETHING MORE SOLID.

THE WHIP USER AND THE CANDY GIVER



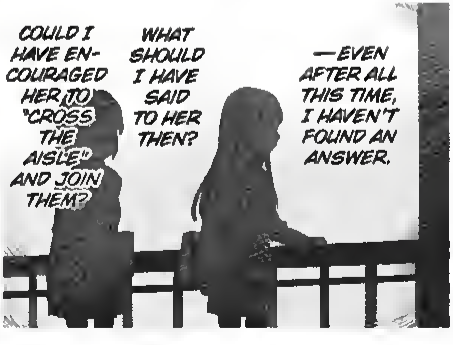
I THOUGHT ...
...HE HAD MORE OF A "PRACTICAL" WAY OF THINKING.
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S THE TYPE WHO TEACHES THE "PRACTICAL."
AFTER-ALL HE TEACHES DESIGN.

THE SAME BITING WORDS

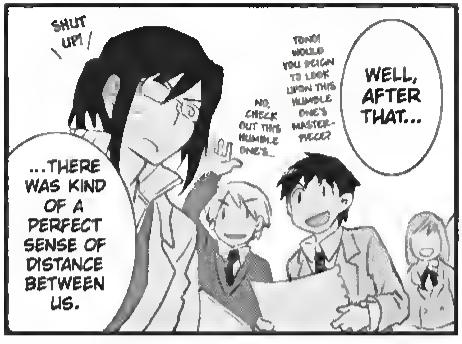


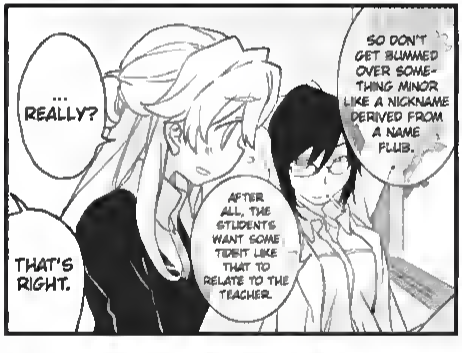
...PATTERNS IMITATING MUCHA'S STYLE LITTLE BY LITTLE IN THE BACK PAGES OF HER NOTE-BOOK.
...SHE HAD TAKEN THE TIME TO CAREFULLY DRAW...

...BUT TOWARD HERSELF, WITH THE INTENTION OF TRYING TO "HATE" ART.
I THINK WHAT SHE SAID THEN WASN'T DIRECTED TOWARD US OR THE KIDS IN THE FINE ARTS DEPART-MENT...


COULD I HAVE EN-COURAGED HER TO "CROSS THE AISLE" AND JOIN THEM?
WHAT SHOULD I HAVE SAID TO HER THEN?
—EVEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I HAVEN'T FOUND AN ANSWER.

THE WARRIOR WITH 30 BAD NAMES

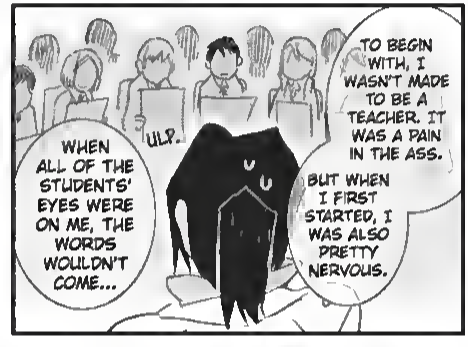

SHUT UP!
TONO! WOULD YOU DESIGN TO LOOK UPON THIS HUMBLE ONE'S MASTER-PIECE?
NO, CHECK OUT THIS HUMBLE ONE'S.
WELL, AFTER THAT...
...THERE WAS KIND OF A PERFECT SENSE OF DISTANCE BETWEEN US.

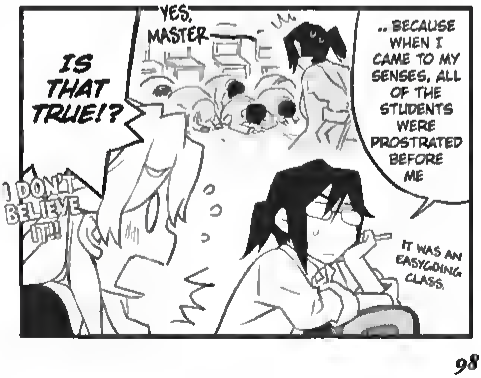

...
REALLY?
SO DON'T GET BUMMED OVER SOMETHING MINOR LIKE A NICKNAME DERIVED FROM A NAME PLUB.
AFTER ALL, THE STUDENTS WANT SOME TIDBIT LIKE THAT TO RELATE TO THE TEACHER.
THAT'S RIGHT.

!!?
I HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED THAT YET
IF THEY GIVE YOU A REALLY SPITEFUL NICKNAME FROM THE BEGINNING, IT WILL WORK FOR YOU EVEN WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND.
LIKE "THE EXECUTIONER" OR "SOUR PERSIMMON".

THE MOMENT OF THE MASTER'S BIRTH

BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE STUDENTS CALL ME?
UM... I THINK I HEARD THEM SAY "TONO"?
OH !?
LIKE YOU, THAT NAME STUCK FROM A BLUNDER I MADE IN THE BEGINNING.


TO BEGIN WITH, I WASN'T MADE TO BE A TEACHER. IT WAS A PAIN IN THE ASS.
ULP.
WHEN ALL OF THE STUDENTS' EYES WERE ON ME, THE WORDS WOULDN'T COME...
BUT WHEN I FIRST STARTED, I WAS ALSO PRETTY NERVOUS.

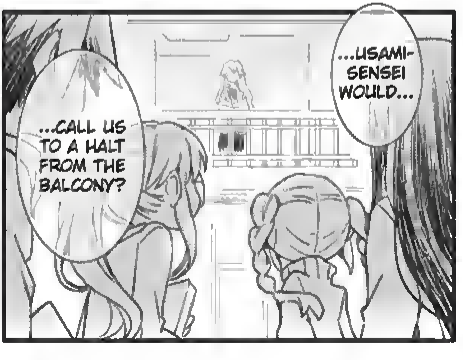

YES, MASTER——
IS THAT TRUE!?
.. BECAUSE WHEN I CAME TO MY SENSES, ALL OF THE STUDENTS WERE PROSTRATED BEFORE ME
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!!
IT WAS AN EASYGOING CLASS.

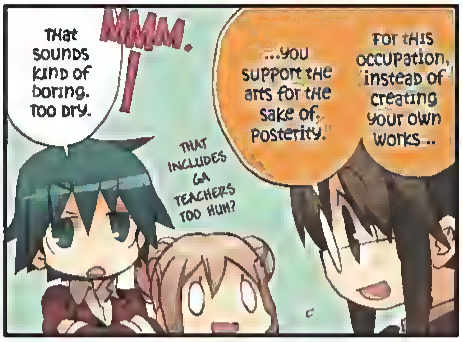
QUESTION AFTER SEVERAL YEARS

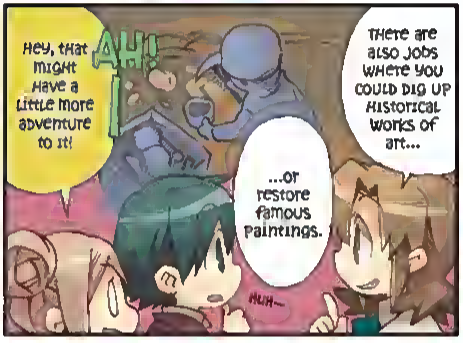
IF ANYTHING, SHE SEEMED KIND OF PLEASED.
IT'S FINE. SHE WASN'T MAD.
AFTER ALL, WE WERE IN A HURRY!
AND THEN...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT TOMOKANE'S RESPONSE, THOUGH...

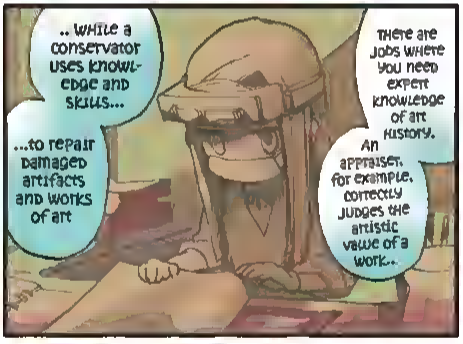
CONTINUED

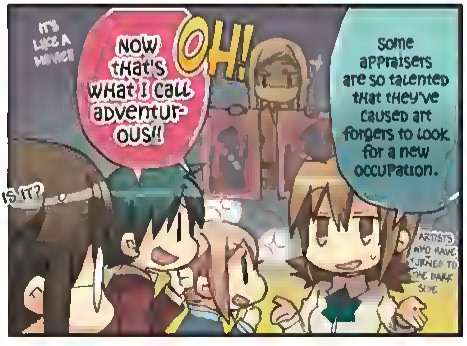
ALSO, IT DIDN'T HELP WHEN KISARAGI TRIPPED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY WING AND COLLIDED WITH US.
OF COURSE THE COURTYARD PATH HAD TO BE CLOSED OFF TODAY ...
THAT WAS A LONG WAY FOR THREE MINUTES, HUH?
AND WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT...




That sounds kind of boring. Too dry.
MMM.
...you support the arts for the sake of posterity.
For this occupation, instead of creating your own works...
That includes GA teachers too Huh?


Hey, that might have a little more adventure to it!
AH!
There are also jobs where you could dig up historical works of art...
...or restore famous paintings.
Huh—


...while a conservator uses knowledge and skills...
...to repair damaged artifacts and works of art
There are jobs where you need expert knowledge of art history.
An appraiser, for example, correctly judges the artistic value of a work...

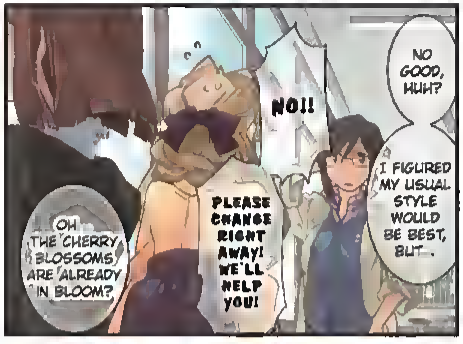

It's like a manga!
Now that's what I call adventurous!!
OH!
Some appraisers are so talented that they've caused art forgers to look for a new occupation.
Is it?
Artists who have turned to the dark side

ART EXPERT

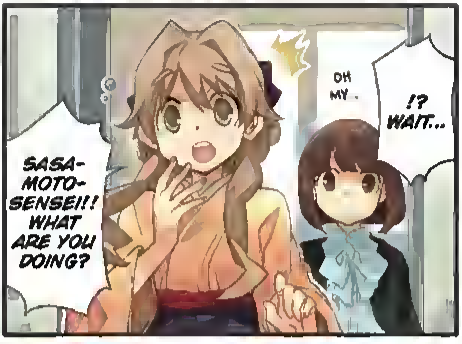
OCCUPATION IN WHICH THE PERSON EMPLOYS KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARTS TO ENGAGE IN VARIOUS FUNCTIONS. OFTEN, DEPENDING ON THE TYPE OF JOB, A SPECIAL QUALIFICATION IS REQUIRED.

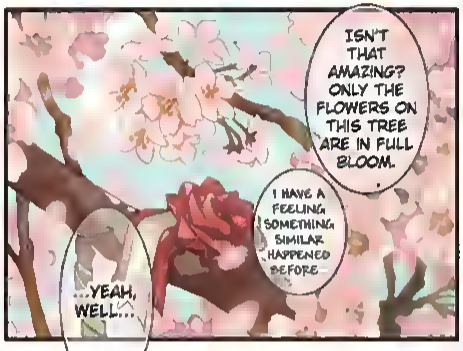
RELATED OCCUPATIONS

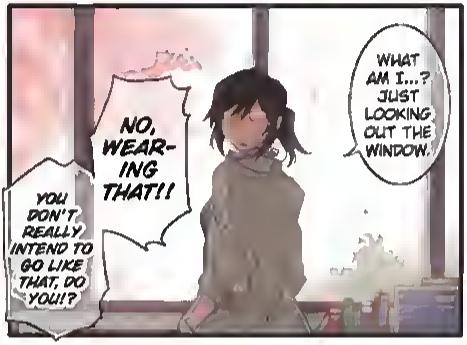
• CURATOR (MUSEUM, ART GALLERY) • • ART TEACHER • HISTORIAN • • CONSERVATOR • ART APPRAISER • • ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCHER • ETC. •


OH THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE ALREADY IN BLOOM?
NO!!
PLEASE CHANGE RIGHT AWAY! WE'LL HELP YOU!
NO GOOD, HUH?
I FIGURED MY USUAL STYLE WOULD BE BEST, BUT...

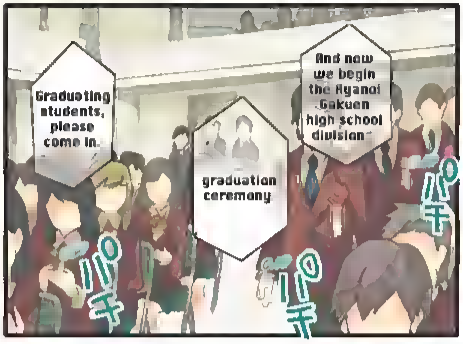
BLOOMING ZELKOVA

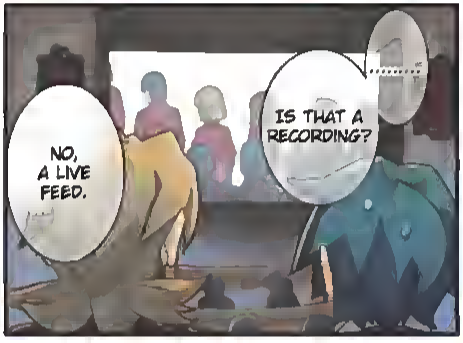


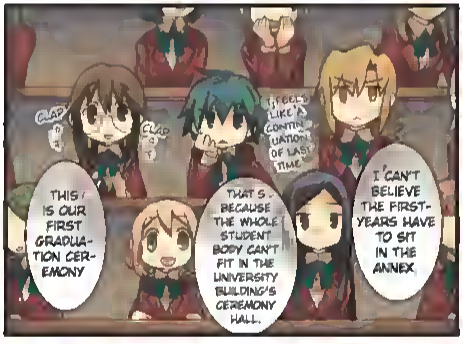

...YEAH, WELL...
I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPENED BEFORE.
ISN'T THAT AMAZING? ONLY THE FLOWERS ON THIS TREE ARE IN FULL BLOOM.

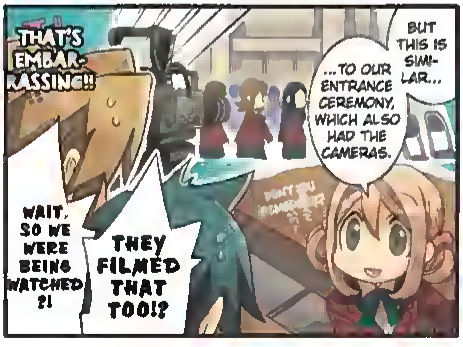


GUARDIANS ALSO OBSERVING AT THE ANNEX

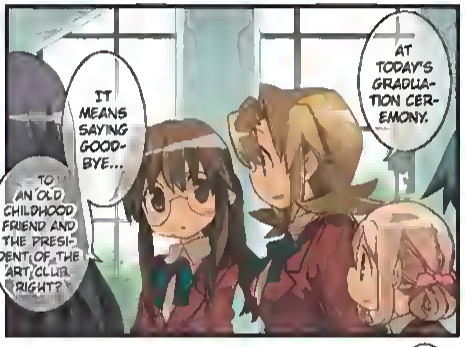


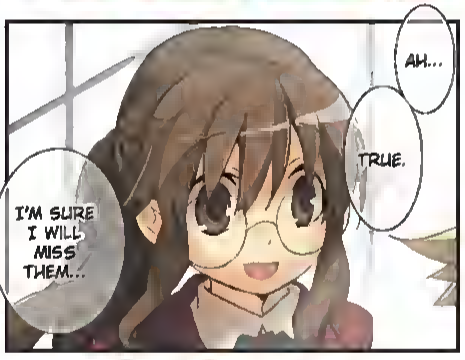


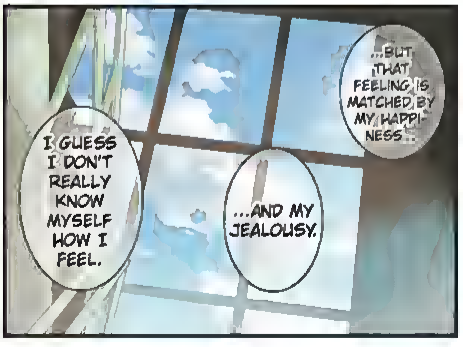

CLAP
CLAP
THIS IS OUR FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY
THAT'S BECAUSE THE WHOLE STUDENT BODY CAN'T FIT IN THE UNIVERSITY BUILDING'S CEREMONY HALL.
IT FEELS LIKE A CONTINUATION OF LAST TIME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE FIRST-YEARS HAVE TO SIT IN THE ANNEX.


THAT'S EMBARRASSING!!
WAIT, SO WE WERE BEING WATCHED?!
THEY FILMED THAT TOO!?
...TO OUR ENTRANCE CEREMONY, WHICH ALSO HAD THE CAMERAS.
BUT THIS IS SIMILAR...

A PALETTE OF OVERLY MIXED COLORS


TO AN OLD CHILDHOOD FRIEND AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE ART CLUB, RIGHT?
IT MEANS SAYING GOOD-BYE...
AT TODAY'S GRADUATION CEREMONY.





DECIDED UNTIL NEXT YEAR'S RED RIBBON

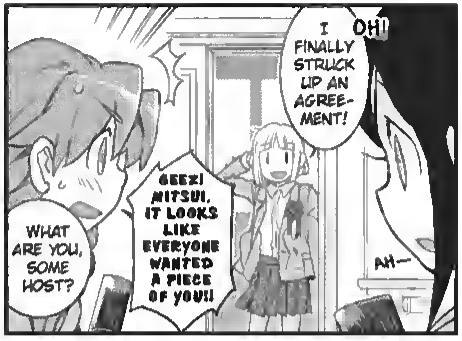
AH... I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THAT FROM MY SISTER.
DO YOU KNOW, NOZAKI-SAN?
WHISPER
WHISPER
SAY, I WONDER IF THIS SCHOOL ALSO HAS A TRADITION OF GRADUATES GIVING AWAY THEIR SECOND BUTTON.

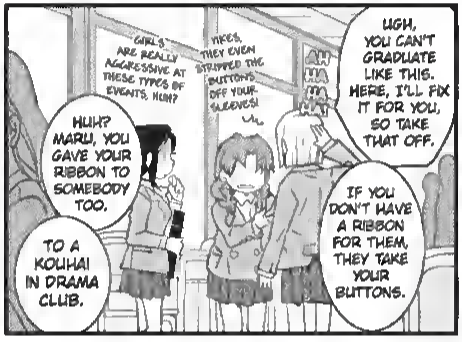
NO, I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD SAVE ON NEXT YEAR'S RIBBON FEE BY TAKING A GRADUATING SENIOR'S...
PRETTY EXPENSIVE FOR JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH...
I SEE. YOU KNOW, IT COSTS 2,000 YEN IF YOU BUY IT AT THE SCHOOL STORE.

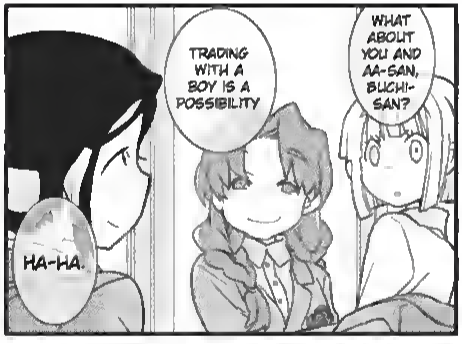
EVEN THE HAND-ME-DOWN ASSOCIATION HAS SPOKEN UP!!
I JUST HOPE SOMEBODY ACCEPTS MY BIG SISTER'S SO I DON'T HAVE TO "INHERIT" IT!
THAT'S RIGHT! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? A NEW ONE IS BETTER!!
SNAP
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS!!

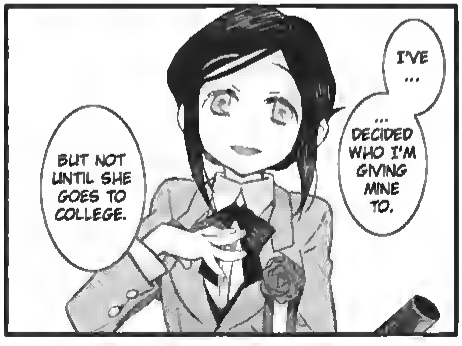
98% IN-ROOM RATINGS

GIFT

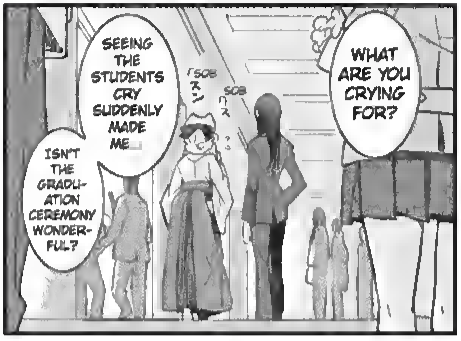



GIRLS ARE REALLY AGGRESSIVE AT THESE TYPES OF EVENTS, HUH?
YIKES, THEY EVEN STRIPPED THE BUTTONS OFF YOUR SLEEVES!
UGH, YOU CAN'T GRADUATE LIKE THIS. HERE, I'LL FIX IT FOR YOU, SO TAKE THAT OFF.
HUH? MARU, YOU GAVE YOUR RIBBON TO SOMEBODY TOO.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE A RIBBON FOR THEM, THEY TAKE YOUR BUTTONS.
TO A KOUHAI IN DRAMA CLUB.





"INFECTIOUS CRYING"



IT WAS HARD GETTING YOU DRESSED UP IN TIME!
AND I'M GLAD WE GOT YOU READY IN TIME, SENSEI!
TO THINK YOU WERE GOING TO ATTEND WITH NO MAKEUP ON ...AND YOUR HAIR ANY WHICH WAY! UNBELIEVABLE!
OKAY, OKAY. I SAID I WAS SORRY.

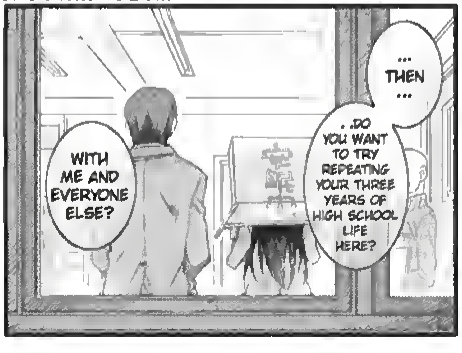
WHAT IS THIS MOOD?
BUT I'M ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
IF THE STUDENTS SEE ME IN FORMAL WEAR, THEY'LL PROBABLY BE STUNNED.
THIS CEREMONY HONORS AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN THEIR LIVES

THE MOMENT IT BECOMES PAST TENSE

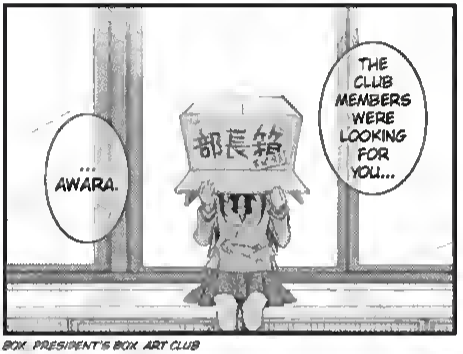
IF YOU SAW MY FACE RIGHT NOW, IT WOULD BE BEYOND LAUGHTER. YOU'D BE REPULSED.
I MEAN, IT'S PROBABLY WORSE THAN YOU IMAGINE
I WILL HIT YOU.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LOOKING LIKE HELL BEFORE.
SOB
部長箱

BUT HOZUMI ...
YEAH.
NO, MY SHOT'S NOT GETTING THAT FAR...
IN SHORT, YOUR TIME HERE HAS BEEN SO ENRICHING THAT YOU'VE GOT SNOT DRIPPING FROM YOUR NOSE.
THREE GOOD YEARS, RIGHT?
部長箱

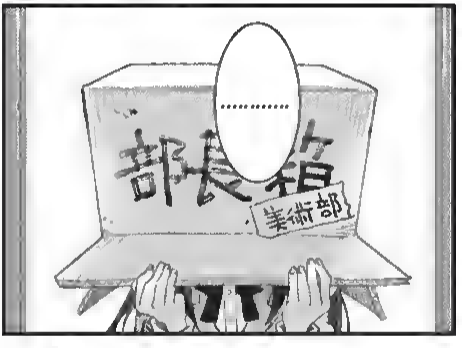
BOX BACK: SLEEPING QUIETLY



HACHIKAZUKI-HIME

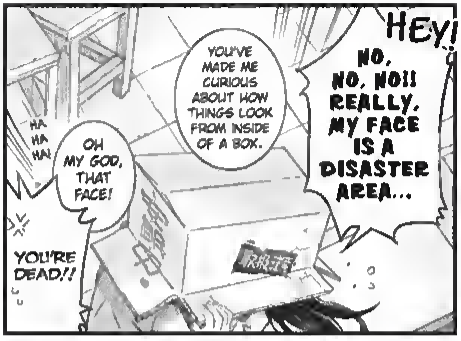


BOX: PRESIDENT'S BOX. ART CLUB



BOX SIDE: HANDLE WITH CARE

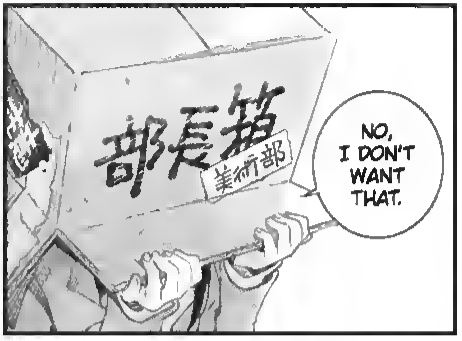
WORDS OF A PROMISE


HEY!
NO, NO, NO!! REALLY, MY FACE IS A DISASTER AREA...
YOU'VE MADE ME CURIOUS ABOUT HOW THINGS LOOK FROM INSIDE OF A BOX.
HA HA HA!
OH MY GOD, THAT FACE!
YOU'RE DEAD!!

WHAT? EVEN AT THE VERY END, YOU WANT TO TURN ME INTO A LAUGHING-STOCK?
THAT'S MY LINE, YOU IDIOT.
GOING ABROAD? WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO GO SO FAR AWAY?
COME ON

I'VE GOT ABSO-LUTELY NOTHING. NOT LIKE YOU...
I WAS JEALOUS OF YOU, AWARA. YOU HAD EVERY-THING...
...I WANTED.
THIS RIGHT HERE IS ABOUT THE ONLY THING I CAN TAKE THE LEAD ON.

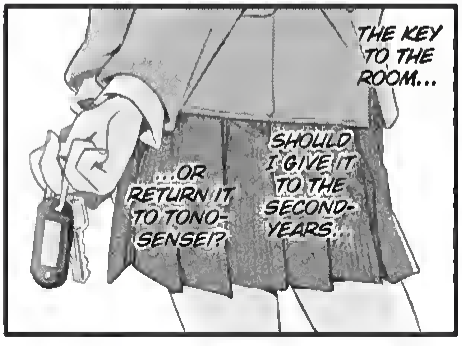
THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE



I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GRADUATE EITHER ...
...BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING EVEN MORE EXCITING WAITING FOR ME...
...AND PUTTING THAT OFF WOULD BE WORST OF ALL.

BATON

I'M SORRY TO BE A BURDEN, EVEN NOW...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU SHOULD'VE JUST WATCHED FROM ANOTHER ROOM.
THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN IF YOU MAKE YOURSELF GO BACK THERE RIGHT NOW
IT'S COLD AND STUFFY OUT IN THE HALL.



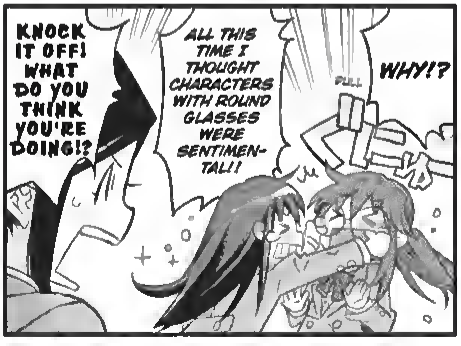
SECOND SALON

MIZUBUCHI, I FOUND THE PRESIDENT
SHE WAS IN FRONT OF THE CLUB-ROOM, SOBBING WITH A BOX OVER HER HEAD.
DON'T TELL HER!!
THANKS FOR TRACKING HER DOWN.

THE INFIR-MARY.
APPARENTLY, TOMOKANE RAN OUT OF STEAM DURING THE CEREMONY.
CONSIDER-ING THIS IS A DAY OF DEPARTURE, WE'RE LEAVING TOO MANY REGRETS BEHIND.

NO DESIRE TO TAG ALONG

YOU'RE GONNA SEE NIGATSU-CHAN, RIGHT?
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
EXCITED
THAT'LL BE AWK-WARD...
EXCITED
AH!
I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE OVERCOME WITH EMOTION WHEN SHE SEES US AND START CRYING.


KNOCK IT OFF! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
ALL THIS TIME I THOUGHT CHARACTERS WITH ROUND GLASSES WERE SENTIMEN-TAL!!
PULL
WHY!?

NO RECOLLECTION OF ANYTHING BUT THE GLASSES

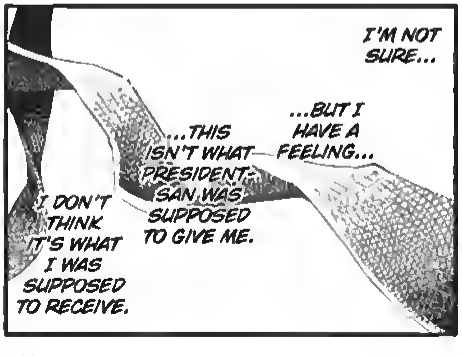
I'D THINK YOU'D BE MORE RELUCTANT TO PART WAYS WITH YOUR SENPAIS.
FREE OF THE ARROGANT, ART-CRAZY SENPAIS.
THAT'S RIGHT. DUDE, WE'RE FINALLY FREE.
THEY'RE ONLY A YEAR AHEAD OF US, AND THEY TREATED US WELL!

THAT'S RUDE. I WAS ALSO WATCHING OTHER...
I'M SURE HE KEPT HIS EYES ON NO ONE BUT SAME-CHAN-SENSEI IN HER HAKAMA DURING THE WHOLE CEREMONY.
HMPH
THIS IS ALL JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR YOU, HUH, HOMURA ?
AH! THAT REMINDS ME!

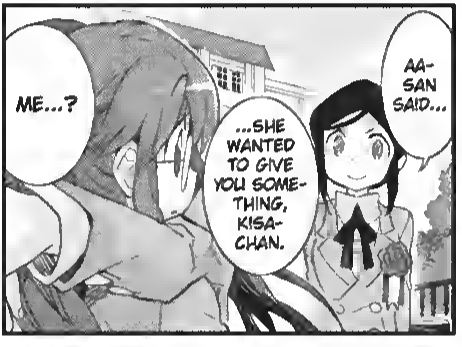
PERFECT TIMING. WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO PAY THAT TEACHER A VISIT.
THAT WAS...
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE, BUT I WONDER WHAT DEPART-MENT SHE'S WITH!!
DID YOU SEE THAT OUT BUT INTIMI-DATING TEACHER WITH THE LONG BLACK HAIR!?
RIGHT!?

WRONG ANSWER

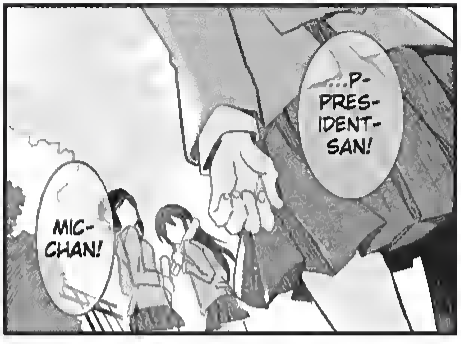
THAT'S GONNA BE MY GOOD LUCK CHARM!
TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW!
EVEN THOUGH I WAS KEEPING IT IN MINT CONDITION FOR YOU FOR WHEN YOU GRADUATED, KISA-CHAN.
SO SELFISH.

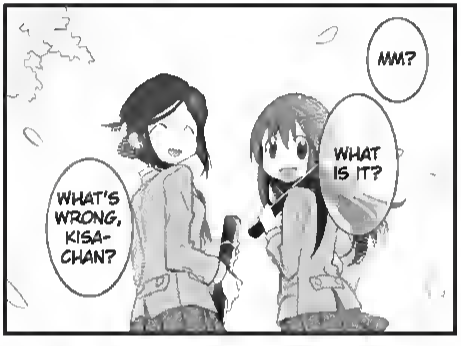

I DON'T THINK IT'S WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO RECEIVE.
...THIS ISN'T WHAT PRESIDENT-SAN WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE ME.
...BUT I HAVE A FEELING...
I'M NOT SURE...

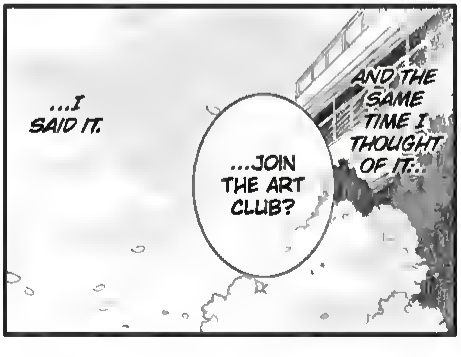
BLUE RIBBON



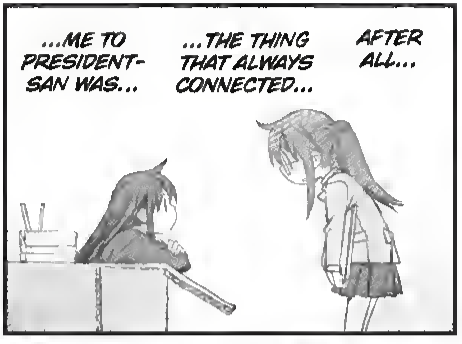
WHERE THE KEY IN THE POCKET ENDS UP



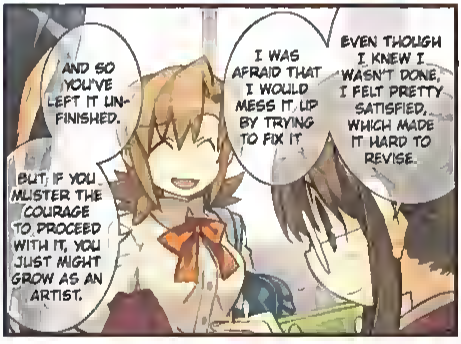


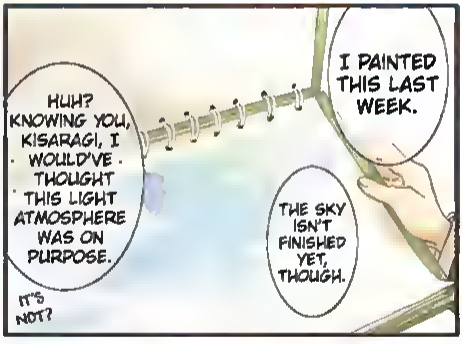


"PAINTING"

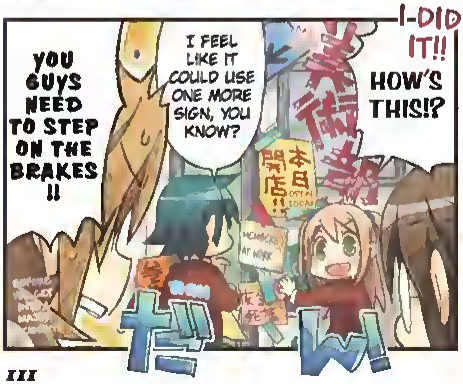


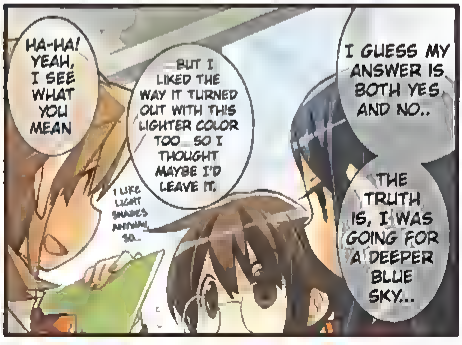
I HAVE A "GOAL," BUT IT'S ABOUT AS FAR AWAY AS THE SKY...
...AND LIKE THE SKY, I ONLY INTENDED TO LOOK AT IT.
BUT IF I DON'T REACH OUT HERE AND NOW...


AND SO YOU'VE LEFT IT UNFINISHED.
I WAS AFRAID THAT I WOULD MESS IT UP BY TRYING TO FIX IT.
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW I WASN'T DONE, I FELT PRETTY SATISFIED, WHICH MADE IT HARD TO REVISE.
BUT, IF YOU MUSTER THE COURAGE TO PROCEED WITH IT, YOU JUST MIGHT GROW AS AN ARTIST.


I PAINTED THIS LAST WEEK.
HUH? KNOWING YOU, KISARAGI, I WOULD'VE THOUGHT THIS LIGHT ATMOSPHERE WAS ON PURPOSE.
IT'S NOT?
THE SKY ISN'T FINISHED YET, THOUGH.

PEDAL TO THE METAL




HA-HA! YEAH, I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN
—BUT I LIKED THE WAY IT TURNED OUT WITH THIS LIGHTER COLOR TOO... SO I THOUGHT MAYBE I'D LEAVE IT.
I GUESS MY ANSWER IS BOTH YES AND NO..
THE TRUTH IS, I WAS GOING FOR A DEEPER BLUE SKY...

WHEN YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY BLACK, GRAY LOOKS KIND OF WHITE

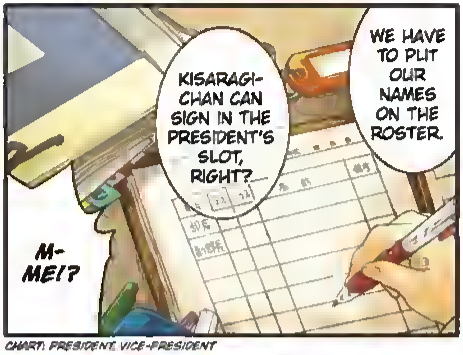
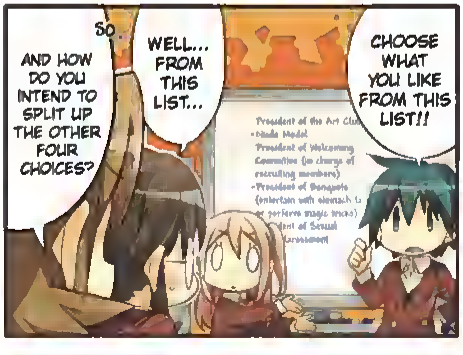


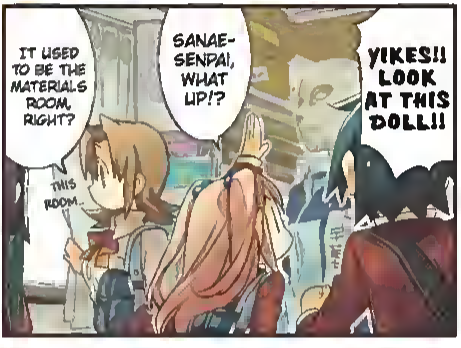
CHART: PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT

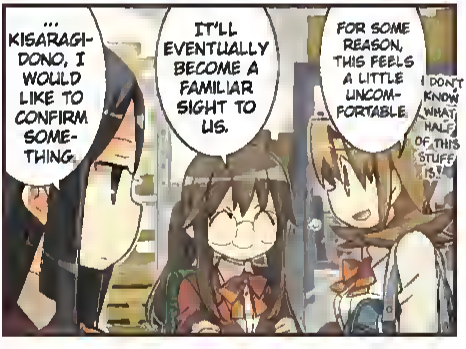
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE RIDING YOUR COATTAILS, KISARAGI-CHAN.
AFTER ALL...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THIS UP.
I'VE NEVER HELD AN IMPORTANT POSITION LIKE THAT BEFORE!
NO, UM, UH, I COULDN'T !!

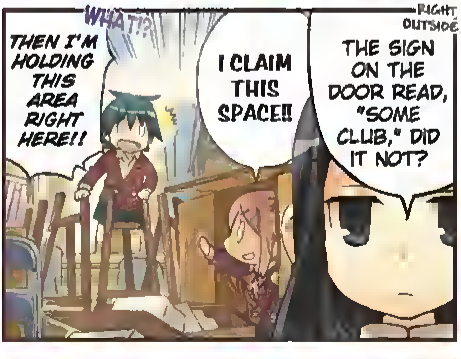
BUT WE'RE NOT SO EVIL THAT WE'D DUMP ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY ON ONE PERSON EITHER.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP, KISARAGI!!!
WE'LL ALL TAKE TURNS BEING THE PRESIDENT ...
THEN LET'S ROTATE !!



ANYWHERE'S A PARTY



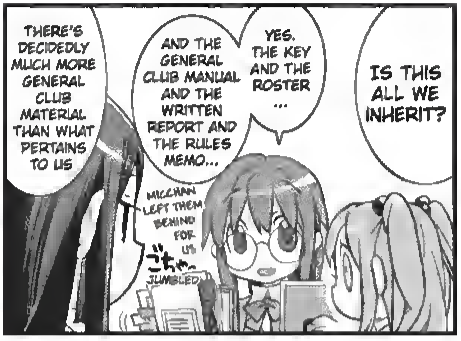

... KISARAGI-DONO, I WOULD LIKE TO CONFIRM SOME-THING.
IT'LL EVENTUALLY BECOME A FAMILIAR SIGHT TO US.
FOR SOME REASON, THIS FEELS A LITTLE UNCOM-FORTABLE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HALF OF THIS STUFF IS!!



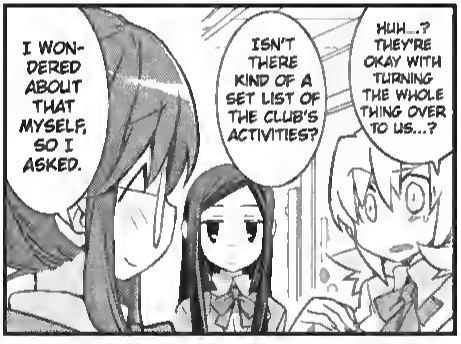
GOOD LUCK.

EVEN ALONE, A PERSON CAN CREATE SOME-THING...
...BUT LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE TEND TO GATHER AROUND...
...A PERSON IN WHOM THOSE FEELINGS ARE PARTICULARLY STRONG.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD


THERE'S DECIDEDLY MUCH MORE GENERAL CLUB MATERIAL THAN WHAT PERTAINS TO US
AND THE GENERAL CLUB MANUAL AND THE WRITTEN REPORT AND THE RULES MEMO...
YES. THE KEY AND THE ROSTER ...
IS THIS ALL WE INHERIT?
MICCHAN LEFT THEM BEHIND FOR US
JUMBLED

HE SAID HE'D STOP IN ONCE IN A WHILE.
AND THAT WE SHOULD CALL HIM IN FOR LIKE THE CULTURAL FEST, WHEN WE COULD USE ANOTHER SET OF HANDS.
LIKE YOUR BROTHER...
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD-YEAR SENPAIS? AREN'T THEY COMING?


I WON-DERED ABOUT THAT MYSELF, SO I ASKED.
ISN'T THERE KIND OF A SET LIST OF THE CLUB'S ACTIVITIES?
HUH...? THEY'RE OKAY WITH TURNING THE WHOLE THING OVER TO US...?

IN THE MIDDLE OF SPINNING GEARS

SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO TODAY, PRESIDENT?
AH. I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR CLUB ACTIVITIES IN MIND...
BUT IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY THAT I THOUGHT MAYBE I WOULD SKETCH OUTSIDE.
OH, THE WATER-COLOR PAINTING YOU SHOWED US...

MAYBE I'LL JOIN YOU.
MM—
SEEING SOMEONE DO SOMETHING MAKES ME WANNA DO IT TOO, YOU KNOW?
HUH!? SERIOUSLY?..ALL RIGHT, I'M IN TOO!
ME TOO! LET'S KEEP THIS TRAIN ROLLING!

AH, BUT WE PROBABLY SHOULDN'T LEAVE THE ROOM UNLOCKED
I'M AN INDOOR-GIRL.
NO PROBLEM. I'M STAYING HERE
IF WE'RE GONNA DO THIS LET'S TURN IT INTO A COMPETITION!
OKAY—
THE PERSON WITH THE MOST JAW-DROPPING PAINTING WINS!

FIVE MUSKETEERS

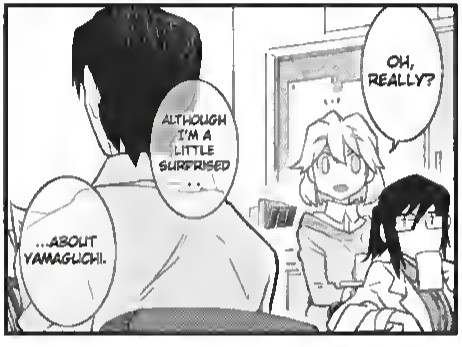
HUH... SO THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
BUT I'M SURE...
BOTH OF YOU HAVE MUCH MORE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ART THAN ME NAMIKO-SAN, AND PROFESSOR-SAN.
AND NODA-CHAN AND TOMOKANE-SAN HAVE THE ABILITY TO DRAW PEOPLE IN.
...I...

...I THINK I UNDERSTAND IT.
WHEN KISARAGI-DONO SAID SHE WAS GOING TO JOIN THE ART CLUB...
...WE NATURALLY WENT WITH HER.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT'S RIGHT.
I FEEL LIKE IT COULD'VE GONE A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY IF THE IDEA HAD COME FROM NODA OR MIYABI...

THAT'S BECAUSE KISARAGI IS ACCIDENT-PRONE!
YEAH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
WE COULDN'T LET HER DO THIS ALONE!
AND IT'S NO FUN IF WE DON'T ALL DO IT TOGETHER!

NEW SEASON

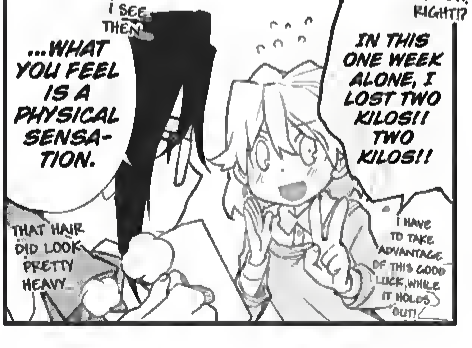
AH... THAT'S WHAT I HEAR TOO.
AH, COME TO THINK OF IT, SASAMOTO-SENSEI...
I GUESS MY STUDENTS JOINED THE ART CLUB..
I JUST HEARD A LITTLE WHILE AGO.



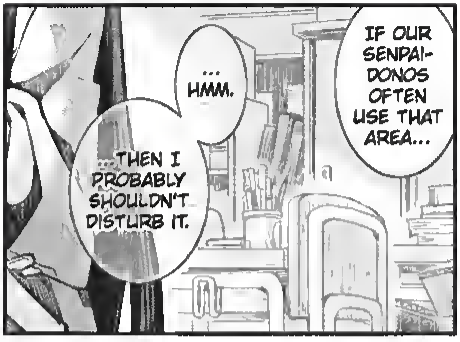
HUH? YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT?
I WOULD'VE EXPECTED...
YES.
SHE'S NEVER TAKEN THE INITIATIVE ON SOMETHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.
..THAT MORE FROM NOZAKI OR NODA.

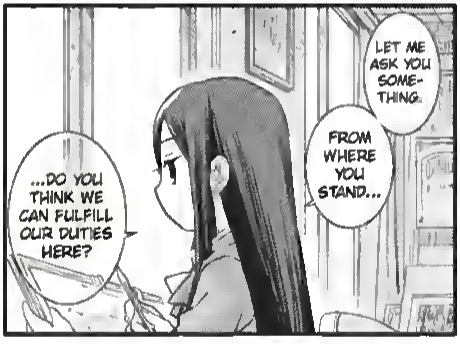
NEW SAME-CHAN

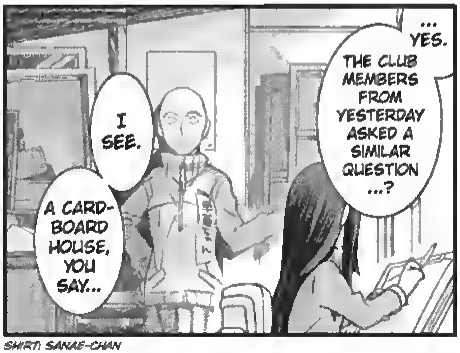
WHOA!
BROKEN HEART?
THAT'S NOT IT!
THE LAST TIME WAS IN COLLEGE...
THAT I HAD MY HAIR CUT THIS SHORT...
...BUT I JUST FELT LIKE TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.
YOU REALLY GOT A LOT CHOPPED OFF.


I SEE. THEN...
...WHAT YOU FEEL IS A PHYSICAL SENSA-TION.
THAT HAIR DID LOOK PRETTY HEAVY...
I KNOW, RIGHT!?
IN THIS ONE WEEK ALONE, I LOST TWO KILOS!! TWO KILOS!!
I HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GOOD LUCK WHILE IT HOLDS OUT!

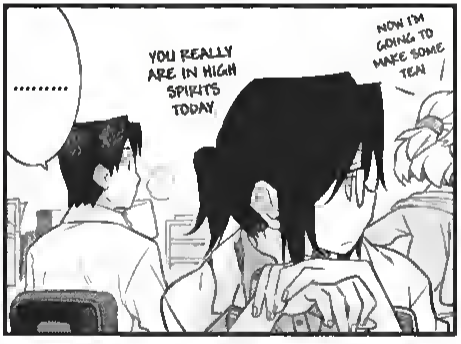
A ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATION





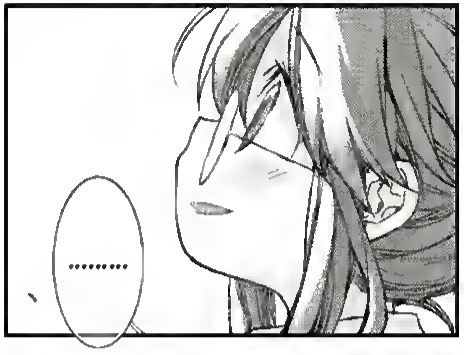


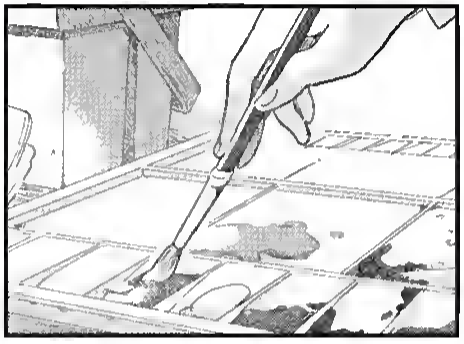
THE WIND'S NEW DIRECTION (GENTLE BREEZE)

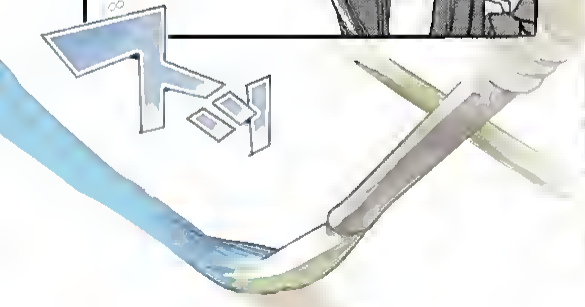


SHIRT! SANAE-CHAN

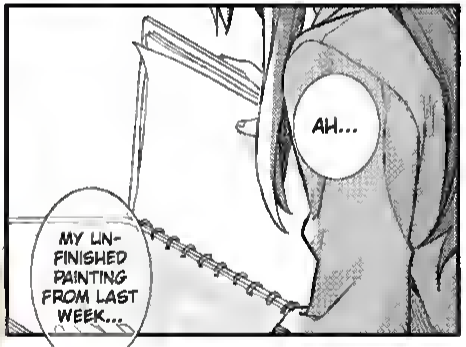
TAKING THE FIRST STEP





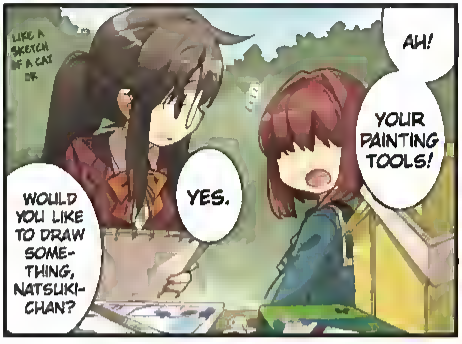


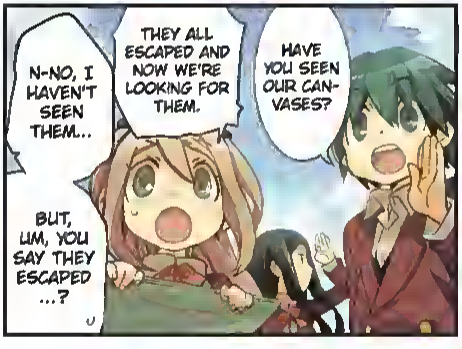
FOOTPRINTS UP TO NOW

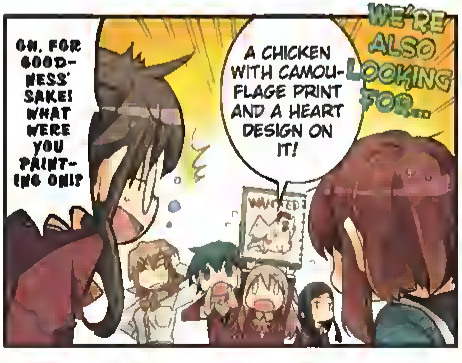


UNDER THE SAME SKY
—AH!
ONEE-CHAN!!

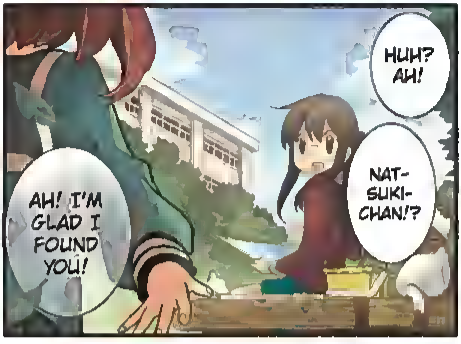
AT THIS POINT, NOT EVEN THE PROFESSOR CAN COAX HER OUT

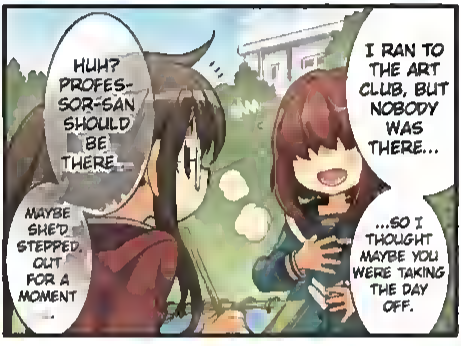


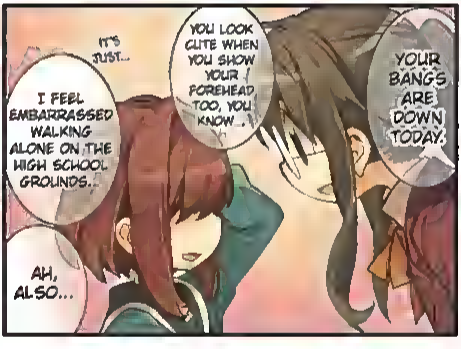

N-NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM...
THEY ALL ESCAPED AND NOW WE'RE LOOKING FOR THEM.
HAVE YOU SEEN OUR CANVASES?
BUT, UM, YOU SAY THEY ESCAPED ...?

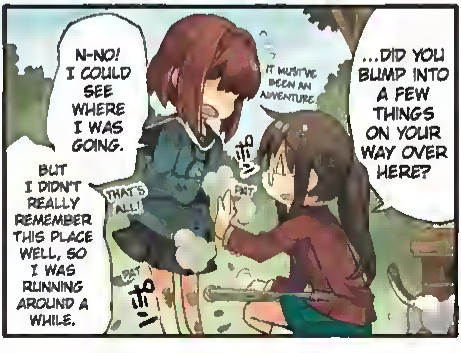

OH, FOR GOODNESS' SAKE! WHAT WERE YOU PAINTING ON!?
A CHICKEN WITH CAMOUFLAGE PRINT AND A HEART DESIGN ON IT!
WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR...!!
WANTED

DRIVING BLINDFOLDED




I RAN TO THE ART CLUB, BUT NOBODY WAS THERE...
HUH? PROFES-SOR-SAN SHOULD BE THERE...
MAYBE SHE'D STEPPED OUT FOR A MOMENT...
...SO I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE TAKING THE DAY OFF.


IT'S JUST...
YOU LOOK CUTE WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR FOREHEAD, TOO, YOU KNOW...
YOUR BANGS ARE DOWN TODAY.
I FEEL EMBARRASSED WALKING ALONE ON THE HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS..
AH, ALSO...


N-NO! I COULD SEE WHERE I WAS GOING.
IT MUST'VE BEEN AN ADVENTURE.
...DID YOU BUMP INTO A FEW THINGS ON YOUR WAY OVER HERE?
BUT I DIDN'T REALLY REMEMBER THIS PLACE WELL, SO I WAS RUNNING AROUND A WHILE.
THAT'S ALL!!
PAT
PAT

DETACHED SKY
I WONDER HOW SHE PAINTED IT.
THIS IS...
...A BEAUTIFUL BLUE.
NATSUKI-CHAN, PLEASE WAIT HERE A MINUTE!
OKAY.
WHERE WERE YOU PAINTING?
!
ONE FOR ALL...
...AND ALL FOR ONE!
DON'T JUST SAY THAT WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT!!
LET'S SPLIT UP AND LOOK FOR IT.
...WOW.

AND SO, THANK YOU FOR STICKING AROUND FOR THE FINAL VOLUME OF *GA*. THROUGH THIS WORK, I HAVE MET SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE AND IT HAS BEEN SO MUCH FUN. FOR NOW, THIS IS THE END OF *GA*, BUT IF I EVER FEEL LIKE DOING SOMETHING WITH ART AGAIN, I MAY SECRETLY BRING THESE FIVE OUT AGAIN SOMEWHERE.

TO MY EDITOR, KOBAYASHI-SAN; MIYAMURA-SAN, WHO DID THE DESIGN; THE *GA* ANIME STAFF; AND THE PRINTING COMPANY, WHICH I CAUSED A LOT OF GRIEF...

YOU HAVE ALL DONE SO MUCH FOR ME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AND MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ALL OF THE OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE CONNECTED TO *GA*.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE PAGES OF MY NEXT SERIES.

きゆづき さとこ。
SATOKO KIYUDUKI

TRANSLATION NOTES ❶

TITLE
G.A.: *Geijutsuka* means "art department."

PAGE 3
Abekawa mochi: rice cakes (*mochi*) with *kinako* (sweet roasted soybean flour)

PAGE 5
mochi: Sticky rice cake made with glutinous rice that is pounded into paste with a hammer and then molded into shape. Available throughout the year, but especially popular at New Year's.

***daikon oroshi mochi*:** Grated daikon radish on top of mochi, not the sweet flavor Natsuki was expecting!

PAGE 6
family register: "*Koseki*" means Japan's civil registry that tracks information on families such as births, marriages, divorce, deaths, and citizenship status.

PAGE 7
Momotaro: Japanese folktale about a boy who is born from a peach, raised by an elderly couple, and years later leaves the village, gathering talking animal comrades as he goes off to fight a band of ogres on an island.

PAGE 8
Sagrada Familia: Large Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, Catalonia (Spain), designed by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926).

PAGE 13
dowsing: Pseudoscientific method used to try to find underground water, buried metals, treasure, etc., with the use of two L-shaped "divining rods" or a pendulum on a string.

PAGE 14
***Dance*, Henri Matisse:** There are two paintings with this title. The first was completed in 1909 and features five dancing figures. The second was in 1910 and is the same basic scene, but with more detail, the bodies painted red and darker colors.

simulacra phenomenon: Illusion created by the brain in which objects are seen as faces or having otherwise human characteristics.

PAGE 16
Yuzen dyeing: Traditional craft in which many colors are used to dye kimonos and coats worn with formal kimonos.

hina dolls: Special dolls for *Hinamatsuri* (Dolls' Festival) on March 3rd. Families with girls usually have a formal display for the dolls (standing on tiers if the family is wealthy enough to afford multiples of these expensive figures). Superstition has it that the dolls should be put away as soon as possible after the 3rd; otherwise, the girl will not be married until she is older, if at all.

Culture Day: November 3rd, a national holiday in Japan, originally celebrated the Meiji emperor's birthday. Now many schools hold their culture festivals on this day, while admittance to museums is free. A lot of free orchestra concerts and workshops are held on the day as well.

PAGE 17
art patronage: The centuries-old system in which the wealthy paid a living wage to a playwright, musician, or artist so that they could focus solely on creating their work, which would then often be dedicated to the patron.

gigolo: A man who receives financial support from a woman (who is usually older) in exchange for companionship and sexual relations.

PAGE 18
fake food: Plastic molded renditions of food often found in window displays of Japanese restaurants so customers have a good idea of what they could be getting.

PAGE 21
Napolitan: Popular pasta dish in Japan that consists of spaghetti, tomato sauce, Tabasco sauce, onions, button mushrooms, sausage, bacon, and green peppers. Said to be from Yokohama (and not Italy, despite the name).

Shigaraki ware: Traditional pottery, porcelain, and stoneware chiefly made in Shigaraki, a town in the Koka district of Shiga prefecture. Raccoon dogs are a common theme.

***Mukaeru*:** A superstition based on a pun. *Mukaeru* means to meet someone (at the door, pick them up at work, etc.), but it's also *mu* = six and *kaeru* = frog, hence *mu-kaeru* = six frogs.

PAGE 23
Thousand-armed Kannon: The Buddhist deity of compassion.

Shiba: The smallest of the six original breeds of dog from Japan. Still in existence today and remains popular, both in Japan as well as abroad.

fired pottery: Firing is a process in which clay is heated up in a kiln to transform it into ceramic. Often coated with a glaze to give it coloration, as decoration or to waterproof it.

super-deformed style: Style that is considered cute and humorous in anime and manga, in which the characters are depicted as short, "squished" figures with simplified facial features.

TRANSLATION NOTES 2

shisa: Okinawan iconic lion or dog-like creature decorations that symbolize protective spirits. Originally from China, Okinawa's version of gargoyles are often seen in pairs as statues that are meant to keep away evil

PAGE 27
relief: Sculptural technique that gives the impression that the sculpted material has been raised above the background plane. However, when a relief is cut in from a flat surface of stone or wood, the field is lowered, which only leaves the unsculpted parts looking as if they are raised.

PAGE 28
Salvador Dali: Celebrated Spanish Catalan Surrealist painter best known for the bizarre images in his surrealist work. His best-known work is *The Persistence of Memory* (1931).

PAGE 32
gagaku: Japanese imperial court music and dance (literally "elegant music") that was established more than 1,300 years ago. Known for its emphasis on timbre.

rakugo: Traditional, ancient Japanese form of comedic storytelling in which the storyteller sits alone on stage.

Kutani ware: Style of porcelain made in Japan after 1655 and originally for only 50-60 years. Named after the village in which a kiln was set up. Known for multiple colors painted over the glaze.

PAGE 33
Pear Garden: The first royal acting and musical academy in China. Founded during the Tang Dynasty by 8th-century Chinese emperor Xuanzong. Ever since, actors in China have been called "children of the pear garden."

It is winter break, after all...: In the original Japanese, this was a pun on the word *touki*, which can mean both "pottery" and "winter," depending on the context.

PAGE 34
Shishou: The word for "master," often used with martial arts (for one's teacher, coach, mentor), but may also be used in the arts, especially by disciples studying under a highly skilled and/or famous mentor.

Bisque: Refers to unglazed pottery that has gone through the initial clay firing (before glaze firing). This first bisque (from "biscuit") firing turns the clay into ceramic material.

PAGE 35
Gradation: A gradual change from one shade, tone, or color to another.

Magic Hour: In photography and cinematography, the time of day around sunset when the light is wonderful.

PAGE 40
Oumagatoki: The same time as "Magic Hour," between day and night, but implies a sinister vibe and is known to be the "time for disasters."

youkai: Japanese folk creatures, ghosts, and supernatural beings in general.

PAGE 42
hot drinks: Hot drinks bought from the ubiquitous vending machines are a must when one is outside on a freezing (or even just chilly) day in Japan.

PAGE 44
Th-th-thanks a bunch...: Chikoko's surprise makes her lapse into her native Kansai dialect. Instead of the usual *"arigatou,"* she says the Kansai version, *"aokini."*

PAGE 46
Turning over the keys: Traditionally, graduating high school students in Japan quit their club activities early on in their senior year, often to prepare for college (studying for college entrance examinations).

PAGE 53
Shuou: Thin, transparent noodles made from starch and water. Often called "cellophane noodles" because of their appearance when cooked.

Shirataki: Slippery, low-calorie, low-carb, and gluten-free noodles made from *konnyaku*, an Asian yam.

PAGE 54
Christmas cake catalog: Christmas cakes are a staple of the Japanese version of the holiday and are sold all over, from department stores to cake shops to people on the street. The orders are often taken days earlier, which is why Noda has collected a number of flyers (or catalogs) on their short walk.

PAGE 55
Flying Nimbus: Reference to the flying cloud ridden by Goku in *Dragon Ball.*

PAGE 59
oni: Often translated as "ogre" or "demon," and often used to describe a merciless taskmaster or a teacher.

New Year's shrine: It is Japanese custom to visit a shrine (basically to pray for good luck during the coming year) either the night of New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, or in the next couple of days afterward, while the holiday week is still going.

throwing beans: Traditionally, roasted soybeans are thrown outside of the house to ward off evil...although the date for that is really February 3rd, Setsubun, the last day of winter on the traditional Japanese calendar.

TRANSLATION NOTES ❸

PAGE 60

New Year's postcards: Sending postcards to friends and relatives is a New Year's tradition in Japan (unless the person in question has lost a loved one during the previous year, in which case you skip them once). The idea is to get the postcards delivered to the post office at least a couple of days in advance and then all of them are delivered on New Year's Day (although there are inevitable stragglers that get delivered in the next few days).

"putting your life on the line": In Japan, Nadia's mistake would be extremely embarrassing, because she is dressed in the same way that a deceased person would be before being placed into a coffin, with the left side of the kimono (her right side) in front. Because of this, Namiko is treating her as one of the dead.

PAGE 61

hatsuyume: The first dream a person has in the new year (i.e., the night of New Year's Eve). The contents of the dream supposedly foretells the luck of the dreamer for the next year.

Seven Lucky Gods: Group of popular deities since the Edo period, who together bring prosperity, health, long life, and good luck.

PAGE 62

money envelope: Decorative paper envelope for giving New Year's gifts (usually money to children) and congratulatory gifts.

the bells: Buddhist temples all over Japan ring their temple bell 108 times at midnight on New Year's Eve. The act symbolically rids people of the (apparently) 108 varieties of evil passions and purify them for the coming year.

zouni: Special soup with mochi in it that you eat on the morning of New Year's Day.

PAGE 63

battledore: Forerunner of badminton, played with a shuttlecock and rackets known as battledores. In Japan, the battledores are often just for New Year's decoration.

"hoard of chocolate": The joke here is that Nadia asks for a board (*ita* in Japanese), and Namiko delivers with chocolate bars, known as *ita chaka*—literally, "chocolate boards."

kamaboka: Fish cake that tastes like crab, made from a puree of steamed and pressed white fish. Common topping in Japanese noodle soups.

lion dance: Traditional dance performed by one or more dancers wearing a guardian lion costume.

"obligation": A reference to "obligation chocolate" (*giri-choco*), the chocolate one is "obliged" to give to friends, acquaintances, the boss, and coworkers (as opposed to giving chocolate to a sweetheart, spouse, or someone one has a crush on).

"helping hands": *Nimbaori* (literally "two-person *hoori*"), a comedy performance in which one person wears a *hoori* (Japanese formal coat) on their shoulders while another person behind them has their arms through the sleeves of the *hoari* and feeds them, puts on makeup, etc.

PAGE 64

daruma: Round, red-painted good luck doll in the shape of Bodhidharma (Buddhist monk who brought Zen Buddhism to China)...(or a Weeble), with a blank eye that is painted in when a person's wish is granted.

tukeworai: Game like "pin the tail on the donkey" played on New Year's. Blindfolded players try to pin facial features onto an otherwise blank face.

kakizome: First calligraphy of the year. Those who practice this custom use pen and ink to write something auspicious, traditionally on January 2nd.

komidana: Household Shinto shrine that usually consists of a small cupboard or shelf on top of which are displayed articles of veneration (e.g., paper amulets, inscribed wood) and daily offerings (perhaps water, sake, food).

PAGE 72

rokka: Old word for "snow," literally "six flowers."

yukibana: Old word for "snowflakes," literally "snow flowers."

PAGE 83

Koshien: Reference to Koshien Stadium, where the Japan National High School Baseball Tournament is held.

PAGE 85

"selfie": Wordplay! In Japanese *jidori* is a homonym of "selfie" and "free-range chicken."

Rembrandt: Rembrandt van Rijn, considered to be one of the greatest painters in European history. Known for his self-portraits and biblical scenes.

PAGE 86

"didn't bring my umbrella": The Japanese superstition that an unusual occurrence is a sign that it's going to rain.

TRANSLATION NOTES 4

PAGE 87

gouache: Opaque watercolor paint, sometimes called "body color." Heavier than transparent watercolors, which allow one to see the "white" of the paper below the paint. Gouache can be applied in solid colors, letting the artist paint in layers from dark to light.

PAGE 88

Heisei era: January 8th, 1989 to present

katsu: Exclamation used to scold Zen practitioners.

PAGE 89

Eureka!: Exclamation supposedly said by Archimedes, the ancient Greek mathematician and physicist.

PAGE 93

Marie Laurencin: French painter, printmaker, and stage designer, especially known for her Cubist paintings and unique take on abstract art.

Gustav Klimt: Austrian painter known for the highly decorative style and erotic nature of his works, which greatly added to Art Nouveau and modernism as a whole.

Norman Rockwell: Popular illustrator and painter known for his depictions of everyday life. He illustrated the covers for the *Saturday Evening Post* for over 40 years.

PAGE 95

hostess: In Japanese, the slang term is *omizu*, literally "water," for a female hostess who pours water for the male clients. Traditionally pours whiskey as well and provides conversation, the role of "arm candy" and flirtation. Not seen as a respectable profession in the "straight world" of Japan.

PAGE 97

Alphonse Mucha: Czech artist best known for his distinctive style, which shaped the aesthetics of French Art Nouveau at the turn of the 20th century.

PAGE 98

***tono*:** The respectful term for a feudal lord and may be used as an honorific.

PAGE 101

Zelkova: Species of elm-like tree in Japan.

PAGE 103

"giving away...second button": Japanese high school custom often seen in anime and manga in which graduating students give a button from their uniform away to a kouhai (sometimes a younger student who has a crush on the person) as a keepsake.

PAGE 104

host: The male version of "hostess" above, a job in which males are paid to provide conversation and flirting to female customers in a bar-like setting. Again, not seen as a particularly reputable profession.

PAGE 105

Hachikazuki-hime: Japanese fairy tale about a girl who has a large bowl placed on her head that won't come off. After much suffering, the bowl finally relaxes its death grip and she gets a happy ending.

PAGE 108

***hakama*:** Traditional formal divided skirt originally only worn by men, but now worn by both sexes.

PAGE 112

***Anywhere's a Party*:** The original Japanese title of this segment is called *"Dokodemo asobu,"* which means "play anywhere." However, here the *bu* is the kanji for "club," making the meaning something like "the play-anywhere club."

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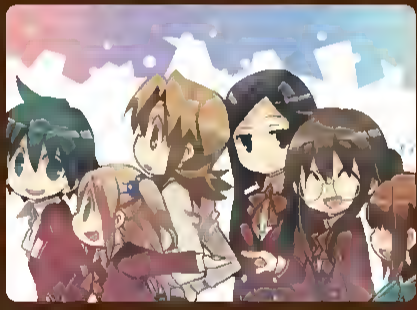
SATOKO KIYUDUKI

GA

Art department art design class

GA

Art department art design class



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SATOKO KIYUDUKI

TRANSLATION: SHELDON DRZKA LETTERING: LYS BLAKESLEE

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First Yen Press Edition: December 2016

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Library of Congress Control Number: 2009292636

ISBNs: 978-0-316-54536-5 (paperback)
978-0-316-46602-8 (ebook)

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Printed in the United States of America